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THURSDAY, JUNE 30TH 2016

'CASUAL BIGOTRY ON A COWBRIDGE STREET'
SEE LETTER ON PAGE 3

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Film review by Gareth Jamieson
Page 20

Welsh football and rugby comment
Pages 39/ 40

Pupils are turned away as...

Cowbridge school goes to the top of the pops

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Vale Council is hoping that an investment programme in local schools will tackle an imbalance that has led Cowbridge Comprehensive to turn away pupils.

St Cyres in Penarth is also oversubscribed, while Bryn Hafren and Barry Boys are considerably undersubscribed.

The figures for this year's applications were released this week by the Vale Council, and they show that Cowbridge, with a year intake capacity of 240, had 302 applications.

St Cyres had 286 applications. However, it was forced to say 'no' to a higher percentage of pupils, because its capacity is 210.

In contrast, Barry Boys is well short of its intake, with 118 applications for 246 places.

At Bryn Hafren, with 224 spaces, some 134 pupils who applied.

Llantwit Major Comprehensive and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, however, were closer to having a balance between spaces and applications.

At Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, 165 pupils applied for 189 spaces, while at Llantwit (capacity 210) there were 177 applications.

Stanwell Comprehensive in Penarth was not included, because its foundation status puts it outside the council system, and as a faith school, St Richard Gwyn RC is treated similarly.

It is surely no coincidence that the two most popular schools have had recent upgrades.

Cowbridge's £20 million project to move the lower school out of the town and into a new school at Aberthin Road was completed in 2010.

St Cyres completed its move into the £48 million Penarth Learning Community two years ago.

Upgrades for Llantwit, Barry Boys, Bryn Hafren and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg are in the pipeline.

Lis Burnett, the cabinet member for regeneration and education, said: "The Vale has some of the highest performing schools in Wales and, understandably, demand for places at these establishments is very high."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Everything in the garden is rosy!

Guests of honour at a Physic Garden celebration event were the family of the late Sir William Asscher. For a report and more pictures by Mike Wilcock, see page 4.

Wales opts to 'Leave'

WALES voted to leave the European Union – but the Vale of Glamorgan's result backed 'Remain'.

In the Vale, 'Leave' achieved 35,628 votes (49.27 per cent) and Remain 36,681 (50.73 per cent). The turn-out was 76.15 per cent.

The Vale was thought to be Eurosceptic, but when counting got under way not long after 10pm last Thursday, June 23, in the main hall at Barry Leisure Centre, there was concern among 'Leavers' as it became clear 'Remain' had put up a very strong vote.

Downing Street was said to be confident of victory until Sunderland delivered a crushing win for Leave – 61 per cent to 39 per cent – at 12.20am on Friday morning. From that point on, it was clear the Referendum was in the balance, and as night gave way to morning, Leave remained the stronger vote.

The final vote in Wales was Remain 772,347 votes (47.5 per cent), Leave 854,472 votes (52.5 per cent).

On Friday morning the Prime Minister David Cameron stepped out of 10 Downing Street to announce his resignation. He will stay on until the Conservative Party announces a successor.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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The GEM says...

After the sound and fury, now it's time for reconciliation and moving forward

IF ever a hugely controversial issue profoundly affecting root and branch life in Britain for generations to come, deserved to be soberly debated and presented in a clear, factual format for consideration by the electorate, it was surely the Referendum on continuing membership of the European Union.

Regrettably, this did not happen, as instructive, dispassionate debate was lost in a confusing mish-mash of dire predictions and ill-tempered claims and counter-claims by both the Leave and Remain camps.

With it, went any hope of the electorate being given ***objective facts*** on which to exercise their vote, unclouded by the emotion and hysteria engendered by'project fear'. Warring politicians on all sides must take full responsibility for this and should not have been surprised by the inevitable outcome of a toxic free-for-all that, far from resolving the vexed 'in-out' issue, has cut the beating heart of the country in two, exacerbating bitter divisions that will be difficult to heal in the crucial weeks and months ahead.

It is to be hoped that those same politicians, particularly in the two main parties, will rise above the fractious power battles that distract them from their primary responsibility – to address the need for healing and reconciliation in our broken society, restore the nation's fortunes, allay fears – and ensure a peaceful and hopeful future for all, young and old alike.

The people expect nothing less.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Younger generation has been let down'

AS a young person, I write to express my complete devastation at the EU Referendum result and my fears for future generations.

I am ashamed of the message we have given to the world and can't help but feel that this vote was never really about Europe.

Rather, it was a protest vote, where genuine frustrations about the economy, employment, standard of living etc were misdirected and whipped up in an atmosphere of fear.

The frustrations and concerns of voters must absolutely be heard and responded to, but leaving Europe is not the magic fix-all solution to these problems. If anything, it will make some of them worse.

In particular, I fear that our hard-won rights for women and workers and the environment will be under threat without the protection of Europe.

I am struggling to find any positives in this situation and feel that my generation, which voted overwhelmingly to Remain, has been let down. We did not vote for this, but we will be living with it for many, many years.

Camilla Beaven, Cowbridge

Ethical principles and the EU...

I AM quite certain why I, and many others, voted in 1975 and 2016 to be part of the EU, because we believed in an ethical principle, that nations should cooperate, in order to build a safer world for our children.

I accept that millions have a different opinion since, like all mortals, we might be wrong, but I am weary of the dogmatic claim of 'little Englanders' that EU membership could never be more than their strange idea of a trade deal, just because they do not see the principles involved.

I recognise that Brexiteers think that buying and selling is the height of human existence, by which they wish to live, in lonely isolation.

I had never expected them to share our ethical principles, but I would have been glad if they had ever recognised that there were such considerations for other human beings and societies to choose.

CN Westerman, Brynna

'WE MAY NOT BE FORGIVEN FOR THIS'

'Older people have no right to influence future of young'

IT has been reported that over 70 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds voted 'Remain' in last week's EU Referendum: at the same time, those over 65 were going to polling stations in droves to vote for 'Brexit'.

As a 72-year-old, I believe that our generation had no right whatsoever to unduly influence the future of our young people. If we are lucky, we will have to put up with the consequences of this decision for the next few years, but the young could be affected by it for 50 or 60 years.

It is, in my opinion, a betrayal of the younger generation for which we may not be forgiven.

I personally campaigned hard for a Conservative victory at last year's general election. David Cameron delivered the first overall majority since 1992, only to be rewarded by being undermined by the likes of the opportunistic Boris Johnson and Mr Gove.

Consequently, the Prime Minister, who represents the caring face of Conservatism, has resigned and looks likely to be replaced by the aforementioned Mr Johnson. I, therefore, have decided not to continue my membership of the Conservative Party, but will still support our MP Alun Cairns, whom I hold in high esteem.

The aftermath of the Referendum has seen the 'Leave' campaigners retract promises that were made prior to last Thursday, chaos on the financial markets, and attacks on immigrants. We also face the renewed prospect of the break-up of the United Kingdom.

I have asked myself that if those who voted to leave the EU last week, might put their cross in a different place, if the Referendum were to be re-run this week.

Well before the Referendum, I advocated 16 and 17-year-olds, on this occasion, being given the vote. Not surprisingly, this did not happen, it being said that, "They know nothing about it."

What condescending nonsense; that age group was allowed a vote in the Scottish referendum and engaged with the issues, making their decision accordingly.

In conclusion, I hope that we can recover from this disaster and secure the future of our young people.

John Deakin, Llantwit Major.

'Time to put pride back into Britain'

AFTER the in-out debate, we now need to decide what model we take!

I believe we should either expand the Commonwealth trade agreements or create a similar British-controlled trade block.

We already know that China, Japan, Canada, Australia, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, New Zealand and most likely, Greece, would to try to stabilize their economy and I'm sure most others would join as long as there was no political union of any sort.

This is a common goal for all as everyone wants a peaceful and prosperous nation.

Any company that relocates to the EU will be jumping from the frying pan into the fire! It is time to support the workers and farmers of Britain and buy British!

James Cole, Swansea

'More important issue than EU'

WHY did we hold a referendum about the EU? We are supposed to have a Government to run the country, what they want should be final.

If the Government wants to hold a referendum, they should think about the death penalty.

When people kill MPs, it's about time something is done about the death penalty.

We have all these murderers in prison living it up. Prisons today have all the facilities to keep them happy, being paid for by the taxpayer.

So let's have a referendum on the death penalty, it's more important than the EU.

Bill Lang, Barry.

Remember their sacrifice

TO those young people who are whining that 'old people' have 'robbed them of their future', we should point out, on this anniversary of The Somme, that their great-grandparents gave their young lives so they could live in a free and (relatively) honest democracy.

Ann Turner, Bridgend.

(SEE MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 12)

Society's ills due to a lack of foresight

CAN I take this opportunity to thank the wise people of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan who voted to stay in the EU, two of only five voting districts in Wales to do so; however, this is not what I want to write about.

What does concern me was that young people, those who are going to be most affected by Brexit, voted by a substantial majority to remain in the EU. They were, however, heavily outvoted by people over the age of 60 who voted to leave.

So yet again, young people of this country, who have been unable to leave home, and get a mortgage, are stuck in zero hours contract jobs – which means they will never be able to get a loan or a mortgage – and have had to pay a fortune in tuition fees for higher education – will not have final salary pensions but much less advantageous pensions when they retire, having paid a lot more.

How many of these older voters asked their children, and in some cases, grandchildren, whether they wanted to stay in the EU?

How many of these older people blamed the EU for the problems of the NHS, the lack of social housing and the lack of school places when these problems are entirely due to a criminally negligent lack of foresight on the part of the UK Government and regional Assemblies?

Also by their failure to explain the problems and put forward solutions, however unpalatable, it is likely there will be increased taxes and national insurance contributions, to allow the UK to solve the problems that it created.

Instead, older people, the same age as myself, voted for the land of milk and honey promised by Mr Farage, who appealed to the basest emotions and fears among a confused electorate.

At least I can hold my head up and say I voted for younger people, for their future. Can you?

David Kennett, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 7)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
30 Thur	02.49	8.5	15.26	8.6
01 Fri	03.52	8.8	16.31	9.0
02 Sat	05.03	9.1	17.35	9.2
03 Sun	06.03	9.4	18.29	9.6
04 Mon	06.58	9.7	19.21	9.9
05 Tues	07.49	10.0	20.09	10.1
06 Wed	08.33	10.0	20.52	9.9
07 Thur	09.17	9.8	21.36	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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The Monday Club menagerie and a mystery meander!

FROM raining cats and dogs to blue skies and sleeping tigers – the Cowbridge (Gateway) Monday Club had it all!

First thing in the morning of June 20, everything was rather wet, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of members, parents, helpers and friends as they set off on their annual summer mystery trip.

Thanks to the financial support of various local organisations – including the Lions, Rotary and Waitrose, members were able to have an exciting free day out – travelling to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, near Bristol, just over the Severn Bridge.

The cafe was the first port of call before moving on to the large enclosed area for the parade of farm animals and a fun talk on how much wool, cheese, milk or eggs are produced by the various animals.

Then came the opportunity to bottle feed the lambs and handle the chicks and rabbits. After this, we explored the large grounds.

Most of us headed to the elephant house, where the keeper told us all about the history and life of the two elephants, and we watched as they had their feet washed. They were well trained and lifted them up just by being tapped in a certain spot!

It was also exciting to see the young alpacas, lions, tigers, giraffes, rhinos, primates and small mammals and other interesting wildlife, and, of course, the exhibition of the Biblical Noah's Ark and educational displays on creation and evolution.

After a visit to the gift shop, we made our way to the coach en route for our early evening meal.

Following a very scenic ride, we arrived at The Rock and Fountain, Penhow and enjoyed a two - course meal.

Many thanks to our treasurer, Sue, for organising the trip and to Daz from the Llantwit Major with Cowbridge Lions for his valuable help during the day.

Anyone 16 years and over with learning disabilities is welcome to join our happy group, on the second Monday of every month, meeting in the United Free Church (Ramoth) Cowbridge from 7.30pm – 9pm.

Further information from Betty on 01446 773373 or Ann on 01446 781309.

AR

School top of the pops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Coun Burnett continued: "As a local authority, we are committed to raising standards at all of our schools. The impact of our work to provide both enhanced support and challenge to all schools in the Vale can be seen in the improvement in exam results across the board in 2015.

"We fully expect this work, the increasing popularity of the Vale as a place to live, and the significant financial investment that we have made into secondary schools in Penarth, Llantwit Major and Barry in recent years to soon result in a levelling out of demand across the county."

Wales votes to leave EU

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, who backed Leave, said: "The democratic will of the United Kingdom has been served, and it is clear that the political landscape here in Wales and the UK has been changed permanently, and beyond recognition.

"Clearly, the leaders of political parties here in Wales will need to reflect to what extent they can be said to be representing Welsh public opinion on this matter."

Mr Davies stressed the unity of the whole country was paramount. "We must also recognise, however, that there is a significant proportion of the population that didn't vote to leave the EU and who will not be sharing our optimism today, and we must move forward together as a United Kingdom."

The Vale's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, commented: "Although I was deeply disappointed with this result, the Vale of Glamorgan constituency voted to remain in Europe.

"I also respect that others have different views and we now need to unite and move forward to secure the future of Wales as we face considerable challenges. I agree with the First Minister's statement that we may have voted differently, but we remain neighbours, friends and family."

The Conservatives are seeking a new leader and Labour are in a state of civil war after more than 20 of Jeremy Corbyn's team resigned in the space of 24 hours.

What the public will demand in the weeks ahead is that politicians put their country before narrow party considerations to create stability as the United Kingdom heads towards exit negotiations with the EU.

Neil Woodford, one of Britain's most respected fund managers, who commissioned an independent report into the consequences of Brexit, believes that although there will be short term financial challenges, in the long term Britain's future will be largely unaffected by leaving the EU.

'Casual bigotry on Cowbridge streets'

MY wife has just returned from a walk along a residential road in Cowbridge and overheard a conversation on the street between two older residents of the town.

One expressed the opinion that, in the wake of the recent referendum, the 'immigrants' should all 'get on with it and leave'. The other seconded this enthusiastically.

While I stress this conversation was not directed at her, my wife is an EU national and came home in floods of tears.

Whatever one's opinion on the recent Referendum, it is sad to think that it has licenced casual bigotry in the streets and public spaces of Cowbridge, the town in which I have lived all my life, and which my wife is proud to call her home.

Dr Huw Sheppard, Cowbridge.

Choir and coffee with the mayor

THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian will be holding her monthly coffee morning this Saturday (July 2) in the mayor's parlour from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Her chosen charity is the Forget Me Not Chorus, which supports people with dementia through song. The choir will be holding taster sessions later in the year in Cowbridge.

Jackie Askey, an ambassador for the choir, will attend the coffee morning and will meet anyone who would like to join.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Training session

THE training in the use of a defibrillator, which took place in the Treoes Community Hall on June 25, was very well attended, with several locals showing a keen interest.

Saron Chapel

THE service that took place on June 26 was well attended, in spite of the very wet weather and the Rev Philip Denyer having to negotiate the steps on crutches, having sustained an injury to his leg.

A date for your diary

DEXTER'S summer fair will take place on August 28 from 11am to 4pm at Felindre Mill, Pencoed, supporting Tŷ Hafan children's hospice.

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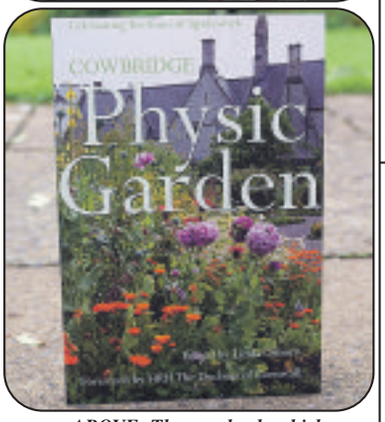
New book launch is highlight of Physic Garden's 10th anniversary celebration

The Asscher family with (above) the plaque that acknowledges the legacy.

ABOVE: Cutting the cake are Dan Clayton-Jones, Genevieve Foster-Thomas and Gillian Griffiths.

Dan Clayton-Jones and Martyn Hurst.

ABOVE: Harpist Ioan Wardhaugh.



ABOVE: The new book, which is available at £12.99

MORE than 100 Cowbridge Physic Garden members, trustees, volunteers and guests attended a glorious evening on Friday, June 24, to mark the 10th anniversary year of the garden's opening.

The occasion was marked with the baking of a wonderful birthday cake (ceremonially cut by president Dan Clayton-Jones, treasurer Genevieve Foster-Thomas and trustee Gillian Griffiths).

Guests enjoyed drinks and canapés in the garden on a warm, midsummer evening and were entertained by local harpist Ioan Wardhaugh.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of the volunteers, the garden looked wonderful and is a credit to the town, and to the Vale; a view endorsed by vice-chair Martyn Hurst and president Dan Clayton-Jones, who both thanked the team for all their hard work.

The Physic Garden received a legacy last year from the late Sir William Asscher, and this was used to refurbish the garden's summer houses.

Members of the Asscher family were guests for the evening.

The party was also the occasion of the launch of the Cowbridge Physic Garden's new book, celebrating 10 years of spadework.

Edited by trustee Linda Osborn, with a foreword by the garden's Patron, HRH the Duchess of Cornwall, the book has authoritative contributions from a number of volunteers, plus pictures by trustees Robert Moore and Gillian Griffiths.

A fitting volume to commemorate 10 very successful years of the garden.

MH

St John Ambulance cadets demonstrate procedures

RESIDENTS of Cowbridge are a little safer since mid-June, when a new cohort of St John Ambulance cadets passed out.

The cadets, part of St John Cymru-Wales, demonstrated various first-aid procedures to families and friends under the watchful – and proud – eyes of adult leaders and instructors.

For more information about joining St John Cymru-Wales as an adult, a cadet (10 – 18) or a badger (5 – 10), visit www.sjaw.org.uk/register.

Bus call for Rhoose

BUS users in the Vale are calling for improved and earlier services from Rhoose.

At a meeting last week, Rhoose residents, the Bus Users' Council (BUC) and Vale AM Jane Hutt met to discuss the matter ahead of a petition being presented to the Vale council.

The AM said that she had been engaging with New Adventure Travel and the Vale Council to find a way of securing a service to the Fonmon Road area, and has called for the 303 service to be provided on a regular basis up Fonmon Road to connect with the Blue Anchor at Aberthaw.Tuesday, July 5 involving NAT, Cardiff Bus and Watts Buses and urged everyone to attend.

Young Ioan in a notable sports double

Player of the year Cowbridge RFC under-10s presented by Josh Navidi, Cardiff Blues.

Player of the year Cowbridge AFC under-10s presented to Ioan by Alun Cairns.

IOAN Phillips, now 10, from Cowbridge, has pulled off a remarkable 'double'.

A pupil of Y Bont Faen School, Ioan played for both the Cowbridge under-10s football and rugby teams. Both squads – particularly the rugby team – have done very well in the recent season.

Ioan's contribution was recognised, leading him to be named 'Player of the year' for both the rugby and football teams.

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Deep cleaning for local pond

ON Saturday, June 25. Llantwit Major Town Council arranged for West Street Pond to be cleaned.

The cleaning of the bottom of the pond had not been done for more than 30 years.

A south Wales company, Ponds 4 U, was contracted to clean the pond. However, this process would have taken up to a week to complete had it not been for the kind offer from Llantwit Major Fire Service Department which volunteered its services and time to assist with removing the water from the pond.

It was estimated that pumping the water would take a maximum of two hours. However, the amount of sludge and slurry at the bottom of the pond made this task far more difficult than was anticipated.

A fire engine and the Young Firefighters appliance were used throughout the day. Many local Llantwit Major fire fighters as well as the young firefighters ensured the project was not only completed, but took just one day to be cleaned.

Firefighters were on hand from 10am to 5pm, and despite the awful weather and mud, they remained cheerful and their resolve ensured this project was completed. Their involvement meant there was minimal disturbance for the residents surrounding West Street Pool.

A big 'thank you' must be given to the residents who supplied all the helpers, volunteers and contractors with regular cups of tea and coffee.

Llantwit Major Town Council would like to offer a big 'thank you' to Llantwit Major Fire Service for its time, effort, determination and sense of humour in undertaking this very muddy task on a typically British summer day!

The South Wales Fire Brigade is currently recruiting retained duty system firefighters and young firefighters. Contact the South Wales Fires Services website for further information.

Dawn Howles, Llantwit Major Town

COUNCIL'S TRIP AROUND ST DONAT'S CASTLE

RESIDENTS from St Donats, Marcross and Monknash were recently invited by the St Donats Community Council to come along and enjoy a tour of St Donats Castle, followed by afternoon tea when they had a chance to meet and speak to the councillors.

Thankfully, the sun shone and a pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all.

ADVERTORIAL

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

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Locally Cloudy2Clear service Cardiff & surrounding areas and Welsh business owner Phil Powell agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just **the personal satisfaction** that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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'CARITAS CHOIR' CAPTIVATES ALL SAINTS CHURCH IN A DOUBLE FUND-RAISER

THE Vale choir, 'Caritas', completed its spring schedule with a concert on Saturday, June 18, at All Saints' Church, Barry.

A varied programme based on a black and white theme enthralled a packed church with superb singing from both choir and soloists.

The choir raised more than £1,500 in aid of Ty Hafan, and the All Saints roof restoration fund.

Photographs by IAN DIXON

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Former golfer wants apology from council

by GEM REPORTER

A former professional golfer who lives in Barry says he wants an apology from the Vale Council after he feared eviction.

Alan Evans (56) said he was told he was £133.89 in arrears – a figure he disputed.

He claimed that on June 6, the Vale Council threatened him with eviction, but the council said it had started "a debt recovery process".

Mr Evans, who suffers from ill-health, including problems to his back, shoulder, pelvis, hip and arms, and had previously been homeless, said: "I won the flat through a bid with Homes 4 U – I was so pleased I cried. I was very grateful because the council had also paid for a washing machine and cooker.

"I moved in on March 14 and had to sleep on cushions for the first six weeks until I was able to buy a mattress – I got vouchers from the council to get a bed frame."

The disputed arrears were made up of water payments, and an ongoing fee for an alarm which he insists should not have been included. Mr Evans had arranged regular payments for the water.

He said the true arrears were £86.15 which was a consequence of him not being able to attend the Civic Offices to make payments because of ill health.

Mr Evans said: "In the end the council admitted it was their fault on the pullcords and said I did not have to pay.

"When I got the eviction notice I was put through a great deal of stress and think I should receive an apology."

Mr Evans is now in credit, but said that when he went down to the Civic Offices to sort the matter out he felt the answers to him were "cold and uncaring".

Mr Evans explained that his health problems dated back to excessive training on the European golf tour many years ago when he rubbed shoulders with the likes of Ballesteros, Woosnam and Faldo.

"I used to hit 1,000 balls a day. You have to be a contortionist to be a golfer."

Coun Bronwen Brooks, cabinet member for housing, said: "There is a small weekly water charge that many of our tenants are required to pay. Mr Evans did not pay this consistently. Our housing team wrote to Mr Evans four times as well as making a number of repayment agreements with him.

"When these agreements were not kept and repayments not made a *'Notice Seeking Possession'* was served.

"This is not an eviction notice. It is the first stage in the formal debt recovery process and advises a tenant that if the situation is not resolved the council will likely take legal action.

"The debt has now been cleared and a water meter is being fitted so that payments for water can be made directly to Dwr Cymru. There is no ongoing debt recovery action."

Alan Evans at his flat.

Go to the The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk

HRT hosts auction for 'Cost of Cancer'

Andrew Thomas conducting the charity auction.

HERBERT R Thomas (HRT) Chartered Surveyors recently conducted an auction that raised more than £4,800 for the 'Cost of Cancer' charity.

Andrew Thomas, director and auctioneer at HRT, conducted the auction which took place at Cost of Cancer's annual May Ball at Blancos's Hotel and Restaurant, Port Talbot. More than 200 people attended the event.

Cost of Cancer is a local charity that has been set up to help families with the everyday bills that still have to be paid when someone is diagnosed with cancer, such as gas, electricity, parking costs and fuel costs to and from hospital.

Nicky Moss, founder of Cost of Cancer said: "It was great to have support from Andrew and HRT. Andrew is a highly experienced auctioneer and I definitely think this experience helped us raise such a considerable amount.

"It was a very successful event and we are over the moon with the amount of money raised."

HRT supports many charities by sponsoring events such as Mair's Walk in Bridgend, which raises money for Velindre, and hosting MacMillan coffee mornings.

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'There is more that unites us than divides us': *Finding a positive way forward for Wales following the EU Referendum*

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** (Minister for Finance)

THERE have been momentous events over the past fortnight about which I have been asked for my views.

I would like to start by thanking people for expressing their sympathies following the death of a young MP, mother and wife, Jo Cox, who was killed a few days before her 42nd birthday.

An inspiring person who had already made a huge contribution before she came into Parliament last year, Jo was killed undertaking her role as a dedicated constituency MP.

The messages from her family showed their remarkable courage and told us what an exceptionally wonderful woman and politician she was. This was highlighted powerfully in her maiden speech by her words *"there is more that unites us than divides us."*

The day before the EU Referendum, we held a number of debates in the Assembly, where there was a great deal of cross-party agreement on the way forward for our public services in Wales.

However, debates on the referendum have been more fractious and last Wednesday there were strong words spoken across the Chamber only a few hours before the polling stations opened for a referendum which will have a profound impact on our lives – especially on the lives of our children and grandchildren.

The Vale voted to remain in the European Union. I was still having thoughtful conversations with people on referendum day, as I distributed leaflets and spoke to people in Barry, encouraging them to vote to stay in the EU – but clear that I respected their views however they voted.

We must now move forward positively, learn lessons, respect each other's views and heal divisions where they have emerged.

As a minister in the Welsh Government, I am playing my part in supporting the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, to protect the interests of Wales.

On Friday, he said that protecting jobs and maintaining economic confidence and stability was our "number one task".

He stated our priorities clearly by saying that we must play a full part in discussions about timing and terms of UK withdrawal from the EU , negotiate continued participation in major EU programmes like the Common Agricultural Policy, European Social Fund and the Rural Development Programme – all important to the Vale of Gamorgan.

He has also said that we must work together to rise up to the challenges that lie ahead, and we must listen to people so we can understand why there was so much division in the referendum and the vote.

Last week, I welcomed a group of young people to the Senedd from France and Germany who were meeting with young people from the Vale to celebrate youth work. We had a lively discussion about the Referendum.

With French, German, English and Welsh being spoken during that visit, the young people were clearly most interested in what they could learn from each other across nations in the world. We must make sure these exchanges continue as part of our future relationships in long-standing purposeful European partnerships.

As Vale AM, I have had some of the strongest responses from young people who voted to remain in Europe, many of whom have expressed dismay about the result and have asked me to support and represent them as they make their voices heard.

They ask that their opportunities and prospects and views be taken account. I was pleased to meet with a group of 16 and 17 year olds on the steps of the Senedd on Monday with Julie Morgan AM, backing their call for votes for 16 and 17 year olds and listening to their concerns about how they can still benefit from Europe.

The most disturbing outcome of this divisive Referendum campaign was acknowledged by Carwyn Jones at our cabinet meeting on Monday.

In his statement following the meeting he said: "*Cabinet members cited examples of hateful incidents directed against non-British people in their constituencies over the weekend, and, equally distressingly, against people from ethnic minorities born here in Wales.*

"Ministers resolved to issue a clear statement... that such racism is completely unacceptable in Welsh society."

He ended his statement by saying that whether you voted to remain or to leave, the Welsh Government will do everything in its power to protect Welsh interests, strengthen our economy and unify our nation.

I will play my part and seek to bring together those with different views and experiences to help us understand each other.

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A single step begins a journey in Welsh...

HOW lovely to read Emily Wood's article in The GEM. Her experiences have been so similar to mine.

I encourage your readers not only to decide how to begin learning Welsh, as she suggests, but also to throw themselves into using the language from the very first moment.

If you're thinking of learning Welsh, or have already taken the first steps on that journey, come and meet the Valeways group outside Cowbridge library at 10am on Tuesday, June 28 for a crwydro, a stroll around the town followed by coffee and a chance to get to know each other.

The walks are free and bilingual. First language speakers are always very welcoming to newcomers, so don't be shy!

If you enjoy walking on more challenging terrain, Valeways offers longer, more adventurous outings, giving you an opportunity to stretch both your Welsh and your legs.

We explored the cliffs and Celtic stones of Llantwit Major on our most recent adventure. Ruth, our leader, took us to places unknown even to those of the group who live there and we found ourselves in a veritable fairyland.

Why not join us as we step out and discover the hidden beauties of the Vale while celebrating another aspect of our heritage, the equally beautiful Welsh language?

My story differs from Emily's in that in my case, it was the decision to learn Welsh that drew me home to Wales. I'd made the effort to acquire enough of the language to be able to communicate in daily life before coming back here, so I wanted to use it every day.

The Welsh Walkers are one of the many active and supportive groups who help me to do just that.

When moving back to Wales, I never expected that I would one day be chosen as the National Eisteddfod's Welsh learner of the year, but that is where my journey led me.

Where will Welsh take you?

Visit www.valeways.org.uk to learn about walking in Welsh or call Ruth on 07800 969157.

KAY HOLDER

Recruitment drive to mark Armed Forces Day

TO coincide with Armed Forces Day last weekend (June 25), the RAF Association (RAFA) is calling on the people of south Wales to sign up as members of the charity.

As the nation prepares to honour the service of so many current and ex-service men and women, RAFA is urging the public to honour veterans in their communities.

RAFA relies on the generosity of members of the public to support its work, delivering help to the 1.5 million-strong RAF family. From sourcing financial aid to tackling loneliness and social isolation, the welfare of its members and beneficiaries lies at the heart of its objectives. In 2015 alone, RAFA made over 102,000 welfare calls and visits to people within the RAF family.

Armed Forces Day is an opportunity for communities to show they value the sacrifices that service personnel have made to protect their freedoms. Whether that sacrifice was made during World War Two, the Falklands or more recent conflicts in the Middle East, such as the Gulf War, the Balkans, Afghanistan or Iraq, RAFA is asking people in south Wales to help support the RAF – and the Armed Forces – every other day of the year.

David Prowse, director of membership and operations, said: "Celebrations like Armed Forces Day are really important initiatives that make current and ex-service personnel feel welcomed by their communities. We believe every generation owes a debt of gratitude to the RAF and their families and events like this remind the British public of the great sacrifices these heroes have made.

"RAFA's primary concern is ensuring that every member of the RAF family feels looked after. With thousands of members and volunteers across the UK and further afield, we are building the vital network needed for a personal, one-to-one approach.

"With this goal in mind, we are asking members of Barry to sign up and help us to provide this security and support.

To join, people can visit www.rafa.org.uk/join

IN BRIEF

Cardiff and Vale Orchid Society

A TALK will be given on the subject of transplanting and repotting orchids from bottles, on Saturday, July 2 at 2pm.

Mr Robin Hall will give the talk at the Old Sully School.

Following a very successful and informative talk by Mr Ian Parsons, anyone with orchids or an interest in orchids is invited to join us on July 2; for more information contact Tony Cumming on 01446 738472.

Enfys craft fair

THE next Enfys craft fair takes place on Saturday, July 2 at St Ffransis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry.

Entry is free and this month's raffle is in support of the local branch of the RNLI.

The fair is open from 10am – 4pm. For more information, call Reg on 01446 792149 or Patricia on 01656 880784.

50P Sale

A SALE will be held in the All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Wednesday, July 6 from 2.15pm – 3.30pm.

Entrance 50p and each item 50p: many bargains to be found. Come along and join us, all proceeds to charity.

Barry player drives off with great prize

A LUCKY local resident from Barry is delighted after winning a Fiat 500 from Meccabingo.com.

James Deavall entered a draw on the site and is one of four winners nationwide to win the fantastic prize worth over £10,000.

The prize draw was featured on Meccabingo.com, and gave all members a chance to enter with each £10 they spent playing any of Mecca's fun online games.

James said: "I'm absolutely delighted! I never thought in a million years that I would win.

"I'd like to say a massive thanks for this wonderful prize! It just proves you've got to be in it to win it."

Sarah Leach, Mecca Bingo's digital operations manager, commented: "We had such a fantastic response to the competition.

"We couldn't be happier for James, it's an amazing prize and I'm sure he will thoroughly enjoy his brand new car."

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

THE die is now cast; by the time you are all reading this, the votes will have been counted and the country's decision known.

The big question will not be, "Should we stay in the EU or get out", There will, in fact be two big questions. The first will be, "Have we made the right decision?". The second will be, "If we have made the wrong decision, what do we do it if all goes belly up?"

Fear not, fellow Barrians – I have a plan!

Phase 1: We blow up the causeway and declare Barry Island an independent free state, like the Vatican.

Then we ensure our sovereignty and security *that's …*

Phase 2: We charge people to come over on the ferry and we only allow the people we want to come to the island on To the boat *and…*

Phase 3: In the event of any international conflict we don't get involved, we declare ourselves neutral, like Switzerland.

Finally, we have to ensure that we get away with the above and maintain a flourishing economy.

That brings me to …Phase 4:

We set up our own bank and print our own money – we won't have pounds, we'll have Ynyses (As in Ynys y Barri get it?); and make sure no-one will want to involve us in wars, because, like Switzerland, we provide a safe haven for all the corrupt politicians, dictators, drug barons and assorted other villains in the world to squirrel away their ill-gotten gains in anonymous numbered accounts. We can then use the money in that bank to invest in Barry Island.

Phase 5: We ensure a flourishing tourist trade by knocking down the fairground and building a massive great casino – better than the one in Monte Carlo.

So that will be Barry Island sorted and as the nearest entry point, the mainlanders will get all sorts of fringe benefits.

We will invent all sorts of stupid rules about what you have to wear on the island and equipment you have to bring, which can only be bought in shops on Holton Road.

The casino on the island will be so popular and so many assorted villains will be wanting to get onto the island to put their money in their anonymous numbered accounts, that people will flock to the Island in their thousands, but we will limit the numbers actually allowed over to the Island per day, thus creating a huge demand for places to stay in the town while people wait for the ferry.

There we go – sorted!

DAVID ALEXANDER
(Barry Island)

Vote has divided the country

I DIDN'T think I would feel so personally devastated at the 'Brexit' result that has left a nation divided and cast adrift with, worryingly, no future plan.

In delivering the Referendum to thwart UKIP and appease the party's right, it seems that David Cameron has earned the unique distinction of being the worst PM we have ever had.

In a single act he has created a disaster for Britain that will have long lasting repercussions right across the globe.

Less than an hour after the result was announced, Nigel Farage was asked if that money would now go to the NHS and his reply was "No". Now Britain is to leave the EU, many people, politicians and pundits will be wondering just how it happened.

I agree that the EU needs to change, but I think we are definitely out of the frying pan, into the fire after Brexit.

I fear that personal losses will spread far and wide; the rich will survive, no matter what, while the poor and working classes will be hit hard.

The vote to leave has not only ruined this country, but divided it. Now Old Etonian Cameron will walk away from this mess for future generations to pick up.

Coun Richard Bertin,
Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

'Elderly want to stay independent'

AFTER reading your article on the proposed retirement flats in Cowbridge, I felt I needed to respond to it.

Not only do some MPs suggest older people should move into retirement flats in order to free up under-occupied houses for the younger population, we now have house-builders suggesting the same.

As a pensioner, speaking for myself and others, we love our gardens – as do our grandchildren – they also love staying in our unoccupied bedrooms at the weekend and during school holidays.

If these retirement flats are so popular, then why are so many unsold?

Perhaps it is the service charges (making pensioners less well off) or perhaps we are not like the pensioners of years ago – we keep active, want to remain independent and not have communal gardens.

I do, however, appreciate that for some elderly people they are ideal, but please don't make us all feel we are a burden on the country.

Name and address supplied.

'Owners' duty to care'

ON leaving Porthkerry Park, recently, I noticed two men waiting for their dog to finish its business.

I watched for a while. They tried to look the other way and when the dog had finished, they promptly walked to their car without picking up the mess.

I then went to the Buttrills playing field, where I saw two crisp packets and an empty bottle on the grass, moments before almost doing the splits on – yes, you guessed it – dog's mess, which was particularly nasty.

I then proceeded past the cemetery on the pavement. This time, I had a very lucky escape, and not for the first time here, from yet another rather large deposit – but no doubt some other unsuspecting individual wasn't so lucky.

...And you want to take your dogs on the beach through the summer?

I don't blame the animal in the slightest, but the owners in these kind of incidents should be ashamed of themselves for bringing the good name of 'responsible' dog owners into disrepute.

So come on, it's your duty, so clean up after your dog! It's really not fair on the rest of us, is it?

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VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE**
Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

I SUPPOSE, as a politician, I can't ignore the EU Referendum and I would ask you to forgive me for beginning this column with some personal comments.

We have had the result of the most significant vote in a generation. The decision that has been taken is a long-term one, affecting the way organisations, governments and people across Europe, interact and integrate.

I am personally disappointed by the overall result and devastated that those Valleys authorities, where I was brought up, voted to leave, particularly bearing in mind the amount of EU money that has been invested in those areas.

I am also fearful for the City Deal proposals and consider this could be a nail in its coffin, and I don't think the result will be a catalyst for major companies and funders to invest in Wales.

I had hoped that the EU Referendum would have encouraged people to think about how future challenges are met together, but I believe that many (in both camps) planted fear in people's minds rather looking to positive issues.

That said, and no matter how I, or any of us feel about the result, it is democracy in action and the people have spoken. For those in local government either now or after the next elections in May 2017, they will have to work harder than ever and ensure the promises made will be delivered, or else the people must bring us to account.

Festival success

In terms of the 'view from the Vale', this month started with one of the Vale Council's most successful events in recent years. I was delighted to see huge crowds at Barry Island sampling the music, food and culture on offer, at the first ever 'Beats, Eats and Treats' festival.

As GEM readers will know, the Vale Council has done a huge amount to drive forward the regeneration of the Barry Island resort. The council was pleased to be able to help showcase the great range of craft, culture, food and drink produced in the region.

For those who didn't make it – or see the pictures in The GEM – the event saw craft and food stalls line the promenade and fill the beach huts, which provided a perfect setting to display the wares on offer.

The festival encouraged thousands of people to come to Barry Island over the weekend and everyone managed to arrive safely and simply, whether they were driving, walking or using public transport.

It demonstrates that Barry Island can host an impressive event and I am delighted to be able to confirm that the festival will now become an annual occurrence.

And that event was just the start.

There is another packed Barry Island 'Weekenders' programme running throughout July and August this year and this time images of them should spread far and wide now that Barry Island is the first beach in Wales to have free public wi-fi, again thanks to the council, in partnership with Bay 5 and John's Café, which are hosting the wi-fi equipment.

As part of its ongoing work to tackle digital exclusion, the council already provides free wi-fi at council buildings, such as the civic and dock offices, and at its libraries. Having access to wi-fi on the Vale's most popular beach will make it even easier for visitors to book a beach hut, share pictures of their day and generally spend more time outdoors, all of which will further enhance the appeal of the resort.

You may also have seen the finished causeway and after visiting this week I am absolutely delighted by the result and the vista it brings.

While there, I was also pleased to have people thank us for the work that has been done. That's what makes me feel proud of the council's achievements.

Elsewhere in the Vale, two high-profile public consultation exercises are now underway that will determine how the latest financial investments by the council are directed.

GEM readers in Penarth may already be aware of the north Penarth open space improvement scheme that will see significant investment to the Plassey Square and Paget Road parks and the Dingle open space on Windsor Road, as well as the skate facilities at Cogan recreation ground.

While the council itself will be undertaking the work to upgrade and enhance these open spaces, the schemes will be designed by local residents.

Some ideas being considered include upgrading existing play areas, installing a fitness trail, tree planting, wildflower areas, and new seating. The consultation runs until Monday, August 8, and residents can find out how to have their say at *www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/consultation*.

Welsh education

June has also seen the start of a public consultation on a proposal that could see a £19m investment into Welsh-medium education in the Vale. The proposal recommends that the capacity of Ysgol Bro Morgannwg is expanded by 299 places to meet the increased demand for Welsh language schooling.

Also included in the expansion proposals are a new 3G pitch for the school and improvements to the reception, parking area and external spaces.

Pupils, parents, teachers and governors are all to be given the chance to have their say on the proposal during the consultation period which will run until August 1. Again, those who would like to find out more can do so at *www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/consultation*.

The proposed investment into Ysgol Bro Morgannwg represents the first part of a wider plan to radically overhaul secondary schooling in Barry. The second part of this will focus on improving the town's English-medium schools and will be considered by cabinet at the start of July.

There was also news from the Welsh Government that local government reorganisation is now off the table and it is rethinking public service reform. I look forward to making the council views known on any issue raised.

As you may know, the council had always argued that, as the best performing council in Wales, it did not want to be subsumed into Cardiff, as was planned.

I know that some people don't like me talking up the council, but it's simply a fact.

For example, it has won another two awards this week in the way it consults with and talks to staff, using the 'Leadership Cafe' and the 'Staff Charter'. These were UK-wide awards and the Vale was the only Welsh winner.

In addition, the 'Inspiring the Vale' business start-up scheme is the only Welsh entrant shortlisted for an 'Enterprising Britain' award. The bursary scheme provides up to £3,000 of financial support and business advice for would-be entrepreneurs under 30 years old. The council is very grateful to the Waterloo Foundation, which has helped support more than 40 new businesses so far, which are flourishing.

The final outcome should be released in the next few weeks, along with the results of two other awards in relation to youth work in which the council is a finalist.

So as I said, I think the council is doing a good job and I would again like to thank all staff involved in these initiatives.

The proof of the pudding, though, is as they say, in the eating!

Charity's record vinyl promo...

Vinyl records may have seen a resurgence in popularity over the last few years – but in Oxfam Penarth, vinyl never went away!

The charity shop is preparing for its third vinyl record promotion this autumn and staff hope to have more than 300 items on display in the promotion.

The Oxfam shop has built up a loyal following of record collectors and has focused on bringing high-quality vinyl to its customers.

Manager Jayne Luxton said: "We welcome donations of all vinyl – singles and LPs – of every genre."

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Where Barry's past meets its present – AND ALSO ITS FUTURE!

ON Sunday, June 12, I made the trip to Barry Island with my family, like many others, in the hope of seeing the Red Arrows.

Looking out at the low clouds early in the morning, I felt sure that the display would be cancelled, but we decided to go anyway, knowing that the Festival of Transport (FoT) was also on.

We walked across the docks to the Island, and it was pleasant to see that there were large numbers of people when we arrived. The FoT was clearly a draw in itself, and there was a superb range of classic cars displayed on the promenade and in the gardens.

Proud owners stood next to their vehicles, keen to discuss how they had rescued and restored their beloved cars.

There were crowds along the promenade, partaking of an ice cream or a coffee, and it was wonderful to see such a throng of people appreciating the pleasures of Barry Island.

We found out that the Red Arrows had to cancel their display due to low cloud cover at Bristol, but the large crowds did not disperse following this news. Even a couple of light showers did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm and spirit of the crowds, and the atmosphere was one of a community, just as Barry used to be.

The fairground was open, and a number of people were enjoying the new rides. There is obviously still a vast amount of work to be done at the site, but it is a far cry from the ghost town which had inhabited the space in recent years.

By far the jewel in the crown for us was our visit to the war museum. This is housed in the railway station building of Barry Island, and could easily be overlooked by visitors due to its size, but it is actually located just next to the coffee shop and is run by volunteers.

They all have a story to tell about the resources contained therein, and have their own areas of expertise. Quite how they have fitted such a fantastic range of artefacts into such a small space is incredible. There is a trench area leading to a tiny room packed with artefacts, occupied by a soldier of a mannequin, where children are encouraged to dress in authentic clothing from the time (this was my son's favourite part!).

The gas bell resounds through the museum in a menacing way, and there is even a World War One gas mask to look at.

An Anderson shelter gives you an idea of the conditions of the area that families would endure during air raids, and was transported from one of the volunteer's own back gardens! Mannequins are adorned with further authentic clothing, such as a nurse's costume, and there are glass cases full of treasures.

In this tiny space, the volunteers have utilised every cubic inch with incredible creativity and it even includes a kitchen, complete with a full-sized dresser, boiler and mangle for washing, complete with contemporary crockery of the day (many of these donations) and a teapot with a lovely knitted tea cosy!

There is an earthenware hot water bottle, an iron, a mincer and a 'real' whisk. My children loved the display of food which illustrated a week's rations for one person – it was the size of a pub breakfast.

The lady who showed us around was knowledgeable and interesting, as are all the volunteers who work there. All the volunteers regularly dress in period costume, which does take you back to the 1940s.

I urge Barry residents – and those from outside town – to visit this 'jewel in the crown'. School parties are welcome, and the volunteers are happy to organise visits, too. The website is www.barrywarmuseum.org.uk/home.html.

An air of nostalgia is seeping back into our town. The coming together for a big event, the fairground beginning to rise like a phoenix from the ashes, the general community spirit which was prevalent on Sunday.

Let's not forget to patronise what we have on our doorstep.

Visiting the war museum was the highlight, primarily because it reminded me about how important it is to feel part of a community – the war being a time when this was absolutely essential – and it was satisfying to experience a small part of that community spirit at the weekend.

There are many criticisms about how our precious town has changed over the years and, having lived here for nearly 50 years, I agree with most of them.

So let's take a few moments to reflect on those snippets that remind us that we are still a very strong and powerful community with so many memories to share. Remember we also have memories to make.

Let's keep the Barry spirit alive!

TRACEY GOFFIN, Barry.

Jackline Abbo (centre) with other Vale for Africa Trustees.

Vale charity looks back on a successful year

VALE for Africa (VfA) recently held its annual general meeting at the civic offices in Barry.

The organisation is a voluntary community link project between the Vale and the Tororo region of Eastern Uganda, and is a member of Hub Cymru Africa, a collaboration bringing together small groups linking Wales and sub-Saharan African communities.

VfA's focus is on health and education, and the chair, Gareth Kiddie, spoke about the achievements of the past year as well as exciting developments currently being planned.

He said: "During the past year VfA has welcomed our third scholarship student to Wales. Jackline Abbo is 18 years old and is from Tororo. Jackline is studying the International Baccalaureate at Atlantic College, St Donat's, for two years."

In the year ahead,there are some exciting new projects being planned. The lead for the eye care programme, Barry-based optician Ted Arbuthnot is in the process of organising the fourth trip to Tororo by a team of medical professionals. The team is getting set to train village health volunteers and do eye tests on hundreds of children and adults during their short stay this September.

To support these and all its other activities, VfA and its supporters hold fundraising events. The charity is particularly grateful for the efforts of Mr Godfrey Knight, who recently organised an evening with Barry Male Voice Choir, raising over £250 that will go to support the charity's educational activities.

The AGM was also an opportunity to welcome new trustee Gemma Hicks to the board. Gemma, who recently moved to Barry, took over as secretary from Sue Bowyer, who has held the post since VfA was set up eight years ago. Board members thanked Sue with flowers for her hard work over the past eight years.

VfA is very grateful to all of its members and supporters, and is pleased to continue to work in partnership with the Safe Foundation, Cardiff and Vale College, Atlantic College, Cowbridge Rotary and with Tocida, their link community organisation based in Tororo.

For further information about VfA, or to volunteer in some way, contact Gareth Kiddie via email at: gareth@gka.org.uk.

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Achieve a higher degree of education at nearby Cardiff and Vale College

ABOVE: Cardiff and Vale College's new city centre campus.

Cardiff and Vale College will be showcasing its growing range of higher education courses at a special open evening in its Dumballs Road city centre campus, on Tuesday, July 5 from 5pm – 8pm.

The college offers courses in partnership with universities from across the country – from foundation degrees that you can top up to a full degree by taking a third year in university – right up to postgraduate study with the PGCE teaching qualification.

The open evening will offer a chance to find out more about the range of courses on offer.

There will also be opportunities to chat to HE tutors, tour the new city centre campus, and get a taste of student life at CAVC.

There are many reasons to study an HE course at Cardiff and Vale College, a spokesperson explains:

• You could benefit from: gaining career-oriented skills and specific industry knowledge to boost your chances of finding your dream career.

•The teaching and expertise of the college and its partner universities. Access to both CAVC and university facilities. Staying close to home while you study – save money with fewer travel and accommodation costs.

•A more convenient location to fit in with your work and family life.

• Courses taught in small-sized groups. Gaining a stand-alone qualification, or having the option to continue your study to gain a full degree. Being able to study full-time or part-time to fit in with work or other commitments.

• Gaining a stand-alone qualification with the opportunity to 'top up' to a degree.

The college works alongside the University of Birmingham and Buckingham New University, Cardiff Met, Kingston University, the University of South Wales and University of West London, to give people the opportunity to gain university-level qualifications in a range of subjects – many of which are unique to the region.

Courses include a new airline and airport management degree, where students can study at the college's International Centre for Aerospace Training.

This internationally-renowned facility, based at Cardiff Airport, includes classrooms, as well as specialist workshops, laboratories and a real-life hangar with aircraft to develop skills on.

One student who is based at ICAT, Lewis Richmond, is studying for a BSc (Hons) in Aircraft Engineering. CAVC students Like Lewis can progress from Level 3 courses onto the college's HE programme.

"I've always been interested in engineering, but I wasn't sure what field was for me," Lewis said. "Aircraft engineering covered the key areas I was looking for; hydraulics, pneumatics and electrics.

"I progressed onto the BSc (Honours) degree from the Level 3 course here at CAVC. That course really opens your eyes to how much goes on inside an aircraft and it highlighted that this was the industry for me.

"The college has a link with British Airways, which is based just around the corner. It's a great way to learn and a stepping stone for getting into the industry. I've had a six-week placement with BA previously and have another three-week block coming up soon."

Other new courses include foundation degrees in hospitality, tourism and events management and professional culinary arts management. CAVC offers a new HNC/D in sports coaching and development and rugby and football coaching, which will be offered at the college's new International Sports Campus in Leckwith.

CAVC now also offers foundation degrees in finance, fashion styling, film, psychology, English and history, game art and design and product design.

Cardiff and Vale College students are among the most satisfied in the country, with the college rated above the national average for teaching and learning.

CAVC has inspirational facilities and dedicated industry-standard training centres across Cardiff and the Vale, including its new £45m city centre campus with its specialist HE centre.

The college has a 90.4 per cent success rate for students studying university level courses which is 11.4 per cent up on the national comparator, and the college has specialist lecturers who are fully engaged with their industries and the latest trends and developments.

Cardiff and Vale College also has a bursary scheme for all HE learners on full-time or part-time courses.

Pre-register for the HE open evening and beat the queues by visiting www.cavc.ac.uk/heopen.

Billy Elliott is a 'wow' from start to finish

A SMALL group of friends and neighbours recently had the experience of watching *Billy Elliott* at Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

The show was jam-packed with excellent vibrant dancing, comedy and superb acting.

The show's story totally captivated the group as it told the story of a boy following his dreams to dance despite lack of support from his family, against the bckdrop of the miners' strike.

Lewis Smallman as Billy Elliott was the star of the show and he won the hearts of the audience. Billy's dad (Martin Walsh) was a convincing and strong character and Andrea Miller as the eponymous character Grandma played a hilarious role where laughter was continuous.

The swearing throughout added to the humour of the show, which was a 'wow' all the way through.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and asked: "What are we going to see next?" as they chatted together on the way home.

Child cruelty offences in Wales increase

THE number of child cruelty and neglect cases recorded by police in Wales has risen by 53 per cent in the last year, the NSPCC has revealed.

The charity's annual child protection review – How Safe Are Our Children? – shows parents or carers were reported in connection with 415 offences in 2014-15, compared to 272 in 2013-14.

A different kind of charity ball!

THE Layla-Mae Appeal is £1,700 better off – thanks to the Cardiff Blues and Wessex Garages.

Wessex Garages asked people to guess how many Cardiff Blues rugby balls could fit in the boot of a Nissan Qashqai, held by the Lollipop Lane Playgroup at Celtic Way Community Centre in Rhoose.

Cardiff Blues rugby player Josh Navidi also made a guest appearance at the fete to help sell raffle tickets, present the prizes and sign rugby balls for fans.

The Layla-Mae Appeal is to raise money for eight-year-old Layla-Mae, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of five as well as severe complex epilepsy.

Layla-Mae was transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital in 2014 for specialist treatment and brain surgery and still remains under its specialist care.

Gareth Howells, general manager at Wessex Garages said: "We were delighted we could help the playgroup raise money for the Layla-Mae Appeal.

"We held a competition to guess how many Cardiff Blues' rugby balls were in the boot of the car at £3 per guess.

"After the competition, we also sold the rugby balls for £3 each to raise even more money for the appeal. The total raised so far is more than £1,700 and they are still counting for a final figure."

Out & About with The GEM

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News from the NGS

Dinas Powys, Glamorgan CF6 4TL

AN inspiring and eclectic group of eight gardens, plus our church, in this small friendly village, all with something different to offer.

Attractions include a garden based on permaculture principles, using perennials, shrubs and edibles together. There are ponds of all sizes and styles, planting in shade and sun, boggy areas, pergolas, child friendly attractions, a caravan and summerhouse, mature shrubs and trees, vegetables and fruit, challenging terraced designs and wild areas.

Plus we have our community gardens opening for the first time. Home-made teas will be served and there are many restful and beautiful areas to sit and relax. Plants sales are also an attraction, and the local church is open, providing lawn games and an exhibition of local art.

Opening information: Saturday, July 2 and Sunday, July 3 (11am – 6pm). Combined admission £5, children admitted free. Home-made teas, gluten-free options available.

The gardens in this group are:

1 Ashgrove and Brookleigh, 30 and 32 Millbrook Road, Nightingale Community Gardens, The Pound and West Cliff – all opening on all of the group opening dates.

The Huntsman Restaurant is opening on Sunday, July 3.

This group also makes a donation to Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern.

Barry Gardens

TWO town gardens.

47 Aneurin Rd is an ever-changing small vertical garden with a collection of over 30 clematis, fuchsia and cranesbill geraniums.

11 Arno Rd is a redesigned plant lover's small garden with a new front garden with unusual shrubs and shade loving plants.

Opening information: Sunday, July 10 (12pm – 5.30pm). Combined admission £3.50, children admitted free. Light refreshments.

The gardens in this group are 47 Aneurin Road, and 11 Arno Road.

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What's on and where in your area

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, July 3 at 2.30pm, 'The Old Rail Track', starting next to Turner House, Penarth (ST186718).

On Tuesday, July 5, 10am, Crwydro Ynys Y Barri, Corsaf Reilffordd, Ynys Y Barri.

On Wednesday, July 6 at at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Visitor Centre, Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on July 6 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit coffee shop strollers meet at Llantwit Major Town Hall car park.

Where's Wally?

GRIFFIN Books in Penarth on Windsor Road is holding a *Where's Wally?*-themed day this Saturday (July 2).

There will be a giant colouring wall for children (or adults), special offers on *Where's Wally?* books, and a prize for the best Wally lookalike. Entry is free with refreshments provided.

PACT in Barry and Rhoose

Gibbonsdown drop-in at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry every Monday from 10am – 12pm.

Gibbonsdown PACT at the Residents' Board Office, Gibbonsdown Rise on Tuesday, July 5 at 10.30am.

Illtyd PACT on July 7 at All Saints' church hall, Park Road, Barry at 7.30pm.

Buttrills PACT at Barry Town Council Offices on Thursday, June 30 at 6.30pm.

Cadoc at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry from 11am – 1pm on Thursday, July 7.

Rhoose coffee and chat on Monday, July 18 at Fontygary Caravan Park at 11am.

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent councillors will be holding a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, July 2 from 9.30am – 11.30am. Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Messy Church

MESSY Church takes place on Monday, July 4 at Crossway Methodist Church from 3.30pm.

Bible stories, crafts, snack, singing and lots of fun! All welcome.

TaxHelp for older people

TOP income tax surgery will be held on Monday, July 4 from 10am – 12pm. Free professional advice is offered to older people on a restricted income at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB.

No appointment is necessary, and home visits can be arranged for those unable to visit in person on 0845 6 013321 or 01308 488066, TOP's helpline.

Friends of the Earth

THE next meeting of Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, July 5 at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Topics likely to be discussed include the recent EU Referendum and the proposed incinerator at Barry dock.

Play centre disco

A CHILDREN'S end-of-term disco is to be held at Coconuts, the children's play centre.

It will take place on Thursday, July 7 from 6.30pm – 8.15pm and is suitable for children from three to 11 years. Book online at www.nutsaboutfun.com/events.

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale will take place hosted by the Operational Excellence Directorate in Alexandra Gardens on Saturday, July 9 from 11am – 3pm; this is to raise funds to buy toys for the sensory bush.

Admission is free, refreshments at low cost; to book a table for the day costs £7. For information contact 01446 411067.

Market Theatre performance

CADS' next performance will be *Let's Fly Away*, consisting of two one-act comedies set in an airport departure lounge, on July 13 – 16, at 7.30pm at The Market Theatre, The Butts, Cowbridge, CF71 7AP (next to the Scout hall).

Doors and Jim's bar open from 7pm; tickets £7 from 07734543928.

First Aid for dads

BARRY Round Table is offering dads in Barry first aid training to cover basic elements including CPR and choking, in readiness for the school holidays.

The course is hosted in association with Barry Town United AFC at its clubhouse on July 20 and will run from 7pm – 10pm. This is a free event and includes a pie and a pint.

The 20 spaces available will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book a place visit dadsfirstaid.eventbrite.com.

Storytelling festival tells tall tales!

GIANTS, literary and otherwise will be part of 'Roald Dahl 100', a year of activity to mark the centenary of Roald Dahl's birth.

Beyond the Border, the international festival of storytelling, will explore giants from every angle, in traditional stories and in children's literature through performances and discussions.

Beyond the Border, from July 1 to July 3 at St Donat's Castle, will celebrate not only giants, but blacksmithing and metalwork in lore and legend from around the world.

'Taster' tickets are on offer, and there are discounts for people living in the CF61 postcode area.

More details on the programme and competitions, and how to book tickets, can be found on www.beyondtheborder.com.

New musical takes to the WMC stage

A brand new musical, written and produced locally, is to be performed at the Wales Millennium Centre (WMC) – after two music and drama students reunited after 33 years.

In the early 1980s, two students met while studying at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, one on the drama side and the other on the music side.

A total of 33 years passed and the drama student received an email from the music student, asking if he'd like to direct a musical she had written.

That is how actor/director Ieuan Rhys and musician/composer Katherine Cole reunited after many a year.

The musical, *I Merlin And The Lady Of Flowers*, by Katherine Cole and Jane King is an adaptation of Blodeuwedd's story from the Mabinogion.

A lady of flowers is created by Gwydion especially for Llew Llaw Gyffes as he is unable to marry a human being, due to the curse set on him by his mother Arianrhod.

It is a retelling of a classical Celtic myth expressed through 21st century music.

Love, lust, owls and eagles illustrate the story, with Merlin himself as the wise narrator, all expressed in soaring song and original words.

The cast consists of many amateur actors from the Penarth and Cardiff area, with a few from further afield – Swansea and Neath.

Merlin is played by Dan Lambert – recently seen on BBC4 with Rhod Gilbert and Midge Ure in *The UK's Best Part-Time Band* as guitarist and vocalist with the group, Johhny Cage & The Voodoogroove.

"We have a great show and a great cast," said director Ieuan Rhys – best known for his acting roles in *Pobol Y Cwm, Gwaith Cartref, Doctor Who* and *The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill*...

"We have to rely on people's dedication to Kath and the show," he said "as Night Owl Theatre are producing this show with no financial backing".

Rehearsals have gone well – meeting every Sunday at the Church Hall in Penarth, with a cast of 23 – adults, teenagers and children.

"It's a thrill for the cast to be performing at the Weston Studio in the Wales Millennium Centre. Such an illustrious venue," said Ieuan.

Three shows will be performed at The Weston Studio: on Saturday July 9, and twice on Sunday July 10. Tickets are available from the Box Office – 02920 636464

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D937.

- **£2,000:** 794709.
- **The rollover, at £9,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 817146, 661044, 570415, 392886, 761843, 835204, 703419, 624874, 332751, 496904, 674808, 785017, 308238, 529262, 725136, 904900, 142589, 204352, 229590, 632288.
- **£5:** 214855, 166537, 898829, 424783, 136114, 707240, 315664, 367168, 565933, 417343, 725755, 817466, 434337, 803765, 790959, 134645, 515326, 377274, 781275, 146451, 765821, 437798, 231700, 491219, 719440, 418541, 124621, 545262, 404785, 872923, 250630, 658462, 874541, 718065, 829337, 765557, 624932, 681790, 143679, 250410, 204147, 224220, 299555, 627850, 529693, 960664, 440102, 405995, 310687, 261140, 116757, 556722, 348081, 826127, 620486, 706849, 357342, 102899, 29, 127.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

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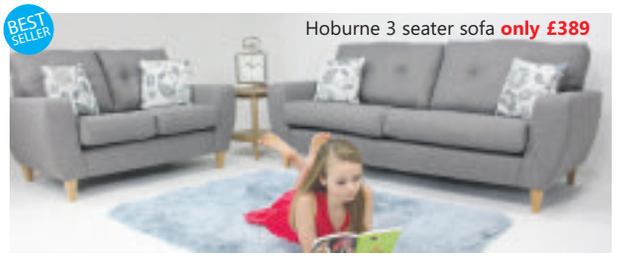

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Community library volunteers.

Dinas Powys community library seeks volunteers

PLANS to relaunch Dinas Powys library as a locally based charity are well underway.

Since the Vale Council announced that five libraries could be handed over to the community, a team of residents have been hard at work.

An application has been made to the Charity Commission to gain charitable status and a business plan has been drawn up.

Chair of the library working party, Chris Franks, said that a huge amount of work was going on behind the scenes.

He said: "We have significant financial support already. We are very grateful that local organisations have pledged assistance to ensure that the library will continue.

"However, we are not content to simply reproduce what exists. We want to expand and offer more facilities and activities."

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the library is invited to contact khatton263@btinternet.com or on 07749 825751.

Go surfing on Barry Island

Coun Lis Burnett and the Vale Leader ººCoun Neil Moore get online.

VISITORS to Barry Island can now surf the web whilst soaking up the sunshine.

The Vale Council has installed free public access wi-fi across the seafront.

In a move to boost digital inclusion across the county, Barry Island has become the latest venue to offer free wi-fi to users.

Other venues already offering the service include council buildings, such as the civic and dock offices and libraries.

It is hoped that this will be another jewel in Barry Island's crown in attracting visitors from all over to enjoy the famous seaside resort.

Coun Neil Moore, leader of the Vale Council, said: "Thanks to businesses like Bay 5 and John's Café for hosting two of the access points, we are the first seaside resort in Wales to offer this service.

"We hope that visitors will make the most of the coverage and share pictures of themselves enjoying all that Barry Island has to offer."

Coun Lis Burnett, deputy leader of the council said: "We have invested much in the regeneration of Barry Island and it's great to see more people enjoying the resort all year round.

"Having access to wi-fi on the beach will make it even easier for visitors to book a beach hut, share pictures of their day and generally spend more time outdoors."

FLOWER FESTIVAL

ST Dochdwy's Church Llandough is celebrating 150 years with a flower festival between July 9 and 12.

The festival will be open on Saturday to Tuesday from 11am – 5pm and Sunday from 2pm – 5pm. Events will include: Spectrum Singers on July 9 at 2.30pm; United Service on July 10 at 10am; Llandough Primary School will sing on July 11 at 2pm and a community Songs of Praise on July 12 at 6pm.

Entry is free and refreshments will be available.

Local art on display in Dinas Powys

Roy Gee with his painting of the walk past One O'clock Gate.

THERE was a fabulous display of paintings and craftwork at this year's Dinas Powys Art Group show.

Pride of place were interpretations of local scenes including the village store, Beauville and the path to Michaelston along Cwm George.

Dinas Powys Art Group was founded in 1994 and now has so many members that there is a waiting list to join, and Glyn Pooley, a professional artist, is the group's tutor.

Each year Dinas Powys Art Group supports a charity. This year the group is supporting Noah, who is nine years old and has cerebral palsy. Noah needs a specially adapted bedroom and bathroom, as well as a new electric wheelchair.

Dinas Powys Art Group meets on Monday afternoons and Monday evenings in the Kynance Hall, Methodist Church, Mount Road, Dinas Powys.

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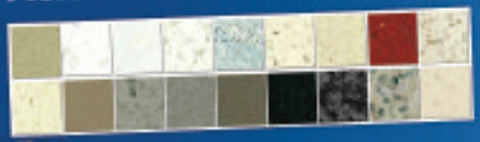

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SEQUEL IS TRULY A 'DISASTER' MOVIE!

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

FEW films left a mark on my youth as much as *Independence Day*. The 1996 blockbuster that established Will Smith as a box office star was a cultural phenomenon, taking over that summer and leaving a shadow over it as large as the alien spaceships that descended on the earth's capital cities.

Given how much of a success it was, it's surprising that it has taken 20 years for a sequel to reach cinemas (although one was mooted and then booted in the early 2000s), but the wait is over and *Independence Day: Resurgence* now looms into view.

Set two decades after the events of the first film, earth has developed the alien technology left behind to improve the planet and its defences against further alien invasions, led by the returning David Levinson (Jeff Goldblum).

However, when the aliens, chastened by their defeat, return to wreak havoc with even more powerful technology, it's down to David and heroes past and present (Bill Pullman, Liam Hemsworth and Jessie T Usher) to stand up and be counted – and defeat the aliens again...

One of the most notable cast members not to return for a second slice of "kicking ET's ass" was Will Smith – it appears, finally, that Mr Smith has developed something of a quality control as *Independence Day: Resurgence* is a hollow and vacuous blockbuster, not without a small degree of merit, but one lacking across the board.

The set-up is a sound one, the 20-year gap between films being replicated in the movie's timeline – earth has developed ways and means of utilising alien technology to improve the world and create a peace that is (as you would expect) rudely interrupted by some less-than-happy aliens.

Yet it's worth noting that also in that 20-year period, Roland Emmerich has gone from making fun popcorn fodder like the original film to turgid, overly-bombastic fare like *2012*, *10,000 BC* and *White House Down* – and this is not the film where Emmerich gets his mojo back.

There is little arguing that the level of spectacle is hugely impressive (no-one does titanic carnage like Emmerich) and the set-pieces, if a little too reminiscent of the last outing, certainly have a degree of thrill and spill.

It is, however, poorly edited, the various plots bouncing around and never quite settling, and while Emmerich laces his carnage with a subtle humour here and there (will The White House make it unscathed?) it all feels a bit too predictable, a bit tired and worn-out.

But it's beyond this that the film really fails, not only as a sequel but also as regards character and story. The story is flat and retreads the first film with a few sly changes here and there, yet feels laborious and overly complex at times, while the characters, in the main, are merely the bland leading the bland.

The returning players give a kick of nostalgia, but it's only Jeff Goldblum's sardonic weariness (always welcome) and Brent Spiner's Dr Okun (with the best story) that you ever engage in. The rest are just there for that nostalgia hit, with one character in particular thrown in for no good reason and leaving as quickly as they enter.

The new cast equally fail to linger. While Liam Hemsworth makes for an engaging and witty hero, the likes of Maika Monroe and Jessie T Usher are lacking in personality and depth, while the presence of a Chinese character who is given absolutely nothing to do is perhaps the worst example yet of a Hollywood blockbuster attempting to woo a burgeoning market.

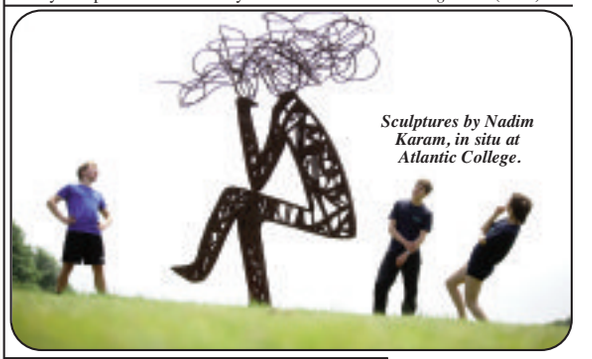
By the time the film reaches its overblown climax, which feels like a poor rip-off of a sequence from Gareth Edwards' *Monsters*, you'll probably care little about whether or not the aliens can be defeated.

While the first film was, in its own way, equally as vapid and jingoistic, it also had characters you cared about, a story you could engage in – sadly the same cannot be said about *Independence Day: Resurgence*.

VERDICT – Silly and overblown, yet too bland and vacuous to connect, *Independence Day: Resurgence* is an unwelcome sequel.

The action may thrill, but the story and characters fatally fail to engage and you're left with an unabashed visual overload of carnage with nothing to underpin it. Poor.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Independence Day* (1996), *Armageddon* (1998).



Sculptures by Nadim Karam, in situ at Atlantic College.

An inspiring meeting for WI members

ON June 11, 48 members representing the Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes, attended the annual meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes in Brighton.

As befitting the objectives of the WI, the day was filled with education, debate, fun and friendship.

Janice Langley, NFWI chair, welcomed everybody and reflected on the success of the 2015 centenary celebrations and the success of the organisation as a whole.

She said that the WI was thriving with over 250,000 members – 60,000 of whom had joined in the last year.

Mrs Langley thanked the board of trustees and members for their support and hard work and said that we continue to be a robust and responsible organisation facing the challenges of the 21st century.

After hearing from experts, the two resolutions for 2016 were passed. These allow the WI to encourage supermarkets to sign up to a voluntary agreement to avoid food waste and address food poverty; and to campaign for appropriate care in hospital for people with dementia.

Two speakers entertained and inspired the members. BBC Trust chairman Rona Fairhead talked about her new role as chair and the challenges that faced her.

Baroness D' Souza, Speaker of the House of Lords, told the members about the role of the upper house and its work in our parliamentary system.

At the end of the day, the members celebrated the Queen's official birthday by singing 'Happy Birthday' accompanied by a brass band. The fun continued with a mini 'Last Night of the Proms' with much flag waving and laughter.

JANE EXELL.

Artist donates sculptures to college

ONE of the Middle East's most celebrated international artists has donated two striking outdoor sculptures to the students of an international college in south Wales, in support of their mission to use education as a force for peace in the world.

The artworks were created and donated to UWC Atlantic College by Nadim Karam, an internationally renowned sculptor, painter, urban artist and architect from Beirut.

Karam's work has succeeded in acquiring international recognition, and is known for its focus on issues with a global significance, often speaking to issues of conflict and the pursuit of peaceful resolution.

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David Waterman, James Mordecai, Laura Jones, Lauren Eley, Michelle Thomas and Layla Thomas (HRT team).

ESTATE agent Herbert R Thomas (HRT) has announced that it will be sponsoring the 10th Mair's Walk, to be held on Sunday, July 3.

The estate agent will sponsor, for the third year running, the T-shirts worn by those taking part.

Mair's Walk was set up by Mair ap Gruffydd, who was given a 50 per cent chance of living for two years after being diagnosed with lung cancer 10 years ago.

Each year, the event attracts more than 1,000 walkers and raises money for Velindre Cancer Centre's Stepping Stones Appeal, which was set up for Mair's Walk. The appeal was launched to increase awareness and raise the money necessary to continue to fund and expand Velindre's research programmes.

Since the first walk in 2006, the walk has raised over £240,000 for the Velindre campaign.

This year, all previous walk leaders will be joining to celebrate a decade of Mair's Walk. These include Max Boyce, Huw Edwards, Kevin Ellis, Robert Jones, Jamie Baulch and they will all be leading the three-mile walk from Bridgend Recreation Centre to Ogmore Farm via Merthyr Mawr and the Stepping Stones.

Spectators and walkers can enjoy the day's entertainment, including a refreshments marquee at Ogmore Farm, with a hog roast and bar. There will also be a performance by the Bridgend Male Voice Choir, a Neil Diamond tribute act and a disco.

Fancy dress is optional and open to all participants, and a prize will be given for the best outfit.

Those who wish to take part in the walk can pick up an entry form from HRT's office in Bridgend or from the Bridgend Foot Clinic.

Registration will also be open on the day, from 9am-10.45am, at a cost of £10. Free T-shirts will be given on a first come, first serve basis. The walk starts at 11am, at the rear of Bridgend Recreation Centre (Halo Leisure Centre) with the release of doves.

RUBBISH EFFORT REWARDS COLCOT!

COLCOT Primary School's 'eco council' was in action last week, carrying out a litter-pick.

One of the eco council's aims for this year was to improve their local community, so on went the gloves and high-visibility jackets and out came the litter grabbers.

The pupils collected a whole bin bag full of litter from the streets and park close to the school, making it a cleaner and more pleasant place to be for everyone.

Backing for RBL's 'Count Them In' campaign

Andrew RT Davies meeting ex-serviceman Andrew Davies to back the RBL's 'Count Them In' campaign.

ANDREW RT Davies AM has given his backing to the Royal British Legion's 'Count Them In' campaign, which calls for questions on HM Armed Forces to be included in the next UK Census.

It is estimated that there are currently between 6.5 million and 6.7 million members of the Armed Forces living in the UK, representing about a tenth of the population.

Little is known about the exact numbers, location and needs of this significant group. Including new questions on the next census would provide public bodies, local authorities and charities with valuable information to ensure they are able to deliver the best services they can for former and serving Forces personnel.

Mr Davies met with representatives from the Royal British Legion (RBL), service personnel and veterans to discuss the campaign.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Davies said: "I was delighted to meet with members of the Armed Forces community who, along with their families, make huge sacrifices in the service of our country.

"The RBL carries out hugely important and significant work on behalf of the Armed Forces and I am pleased to hear more and back its 'Count Them In' campaign.

"It simply cannot be right that our servicemen and women, veterans and their families are effectively hidden from official statistics, so I'm only too happy to back the call for new questions to be added to the next UK Census.

"We count on them – let's count them in."

Chris Simpkins, director-general of The Royal British Legion, said: "As a nation we promise to provide lifelong care and support for those who serve our country. By adding questions to the 2021 UK Census, we can help public bodies and charities deliver the best services they can for our Armed Forces, when and where it is needed most."

The public can find out more about the campaign by visiting the campaign website, www.britishlegion.org.uk/census, or by posting their own pledge of support on social media using the hashtag #CountThemIn.

Penarth Aviation society goes 'Down Under'!

THIS coming Friday, July 1, the Penarth Aviation Society will have the opportunity to find out about some exotic aircraft museums.

Last November, society member John Andrew flew to Australia for a sight-seeing tour with his wife. Naturally, with his keen interest in all things aeronautical, this included visits to significant aircraft museums.

John tells us he started in Singapore looking at the Singapore Air Force Museum, which includes two Hawker Hunter jets.

From Singapore to Melbourne and the RAAF Museum at Point Cook, home of the world's oldest continuously operating airbase, which has been in use since 1914.

With stops at Moorabin (home to a Bristol Beaufighter from World War Two), Alice Springs (home to a rare de Havilland Drover in the famous 'Flying Doctor' colours), John ended up at Sydney where he was able to see one of only two Super Constellation aircraft left from the 1950s.

The final stop on this tour was at the Australian Fleet Air Arm Museum at Nowra. It will be interesting to compare this last museum with our own museum at Yeovilton.

We will doubtless be well informed about historical Antipodean aviation at the meeting's conclusion!

The meeting will be held in the Penarth Conservative Club on Friday, July 1 at 7.45pm for 8pm and visitors are welcome to attend for a small donation.

DAVID EPHRAIM (Penarth Aviation Society)

Policy update for Glamorgan farmers

NFU Cymru head of policy, Dylan Morgan, will address the next Glamorgan NFU Cymru county meeting on Wednesday, July 6 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

The meeting will start at 7.30pm and will include a policy briefing from Mr Morgan. He will provide an update on the political landscape following the EU Referendum outcome and the possible implications for Welsh agriculture. Mr Morgan will also provide information on the current policy issues affecting farmers, including the basic payment scheme (BPS) and livestock movement rules.

Abi Reader, Glamorgan NFU Cymru county chairman said: "We are extremely grateful to Mr Morgan for agreeing to come and speak at the meeting. The outcome of the Referendum is clearly something that will affect Welsh agriculture long into the future and it will be interesting to discuss this further with Glamorgan farmers. The meeting is open to all members and I hope we get a good turnout."

What's on and where?

Councillors' surgery

COUNCILLORS Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan Wiliam, Nic Hodges and Shirley Hodges will hold their regular surgery at the community room in the county library, King Square, Barry from 11am – 12pm on Saturday, July 2. No appointments are necessary.

Penarth sale

THE Friends of Penarth Library are having a plant and cake sale at Penarth library from 12pm on Saturday, July 2.

Please come and support your local library.

Harriers' reunion

BARRY and Vale Harriers' reunion is inviting past members to the Tynewydd Inn, Barry on Tuesday, July 12 at 8pm to recall old memories.

Shadows Club

THE South Wales Shadows Club will meet on July 12 in The Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth (02920 309979).

Come along and play – bring your guitar, (use our PA etc) or just come to listen. Licensed bar from 8 pm. All are welcome.

Age Connects advice

IF you own your own home, are interested in equity release and want to find out more information, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an advice session at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, July 5 from 10am to 12pm when you will be able to get advice from an independent adviser.

No appointment is needed, just come along; for further information call 01446 732385.

Eisteddfod choir call

THIS year Abergavenny hosts the national Eisteddfod during the first week of August. Cor Dysgwyr is a choir of non-Welsh speakers formed to compete, on Thursday, Aug 4.

Rehearsals are on Monday from 6pm – 7pm in Trinity church hall, Barry.

Group's meeting

SAVING Sully Group is holding a public meeting regarding proposals to build on Sully sports field on Thursday, June 30 at 7.30pm at the Jubilee Hall Sully.

A spokesman said: "We recommend that all residents attend to be updated on the current position.

Social bingo event in town

THE last meeting in Cowbridge was its usual success and it was pleasing to see Wally occupying his usual seat, following his return from a very serious operation.

Our reserve ticket sellers, Janette and her granddaughter Jordanne won a few prizes between them – good teamwork!

Thanks to everyone who brought unwanted wedding presents for disposal in the raffle. The only unhappy winner was the girl who won the solid granite decanter – she could not get any wine out of it!

Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 7 – 7pm for 7.30pm at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall. The main prize will be a luncheon voucher for two at that prestigious eating house, The Market Place in Cowbridge. The winners should insist on being served by the Brazilian Bombshell Maria, who will engulf you the moment you enter the premises!

Do join us for bingo, good fun, sumptuous food (no charge), not forgetting to bring your bingo dabber, wine, and some friends.

BASIL WATKINS

RBL 'Handy Van' helps veterans

THE Royal British Legion 'Handy Van' is on manoeuvres in Barry.

The van is equipped for small repairs and minor adaptations to the homes of former Armed Forces personnel and their dependants – if they are in receipt of a means-tested benefit or pension credits.

For further information, visit the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, from 10am to midday on Tuesday, July 5. An adviser from the RBL's 'Poppy Calls' service will be available to chat with.

FG

1950s sitting room helps dementia patients focus

Left to right: George Drummond, Lyn James and Susan Beck.

A 1950s-style sitting room at University Hospital, Llandough (UHL) is helping petients with dementia to 'refocus'.

'The Cwtch' at UHL is the brainchild of Ben Ford, ward manager and Katherine Martinson, refocusing nurse on ward East 18.

East 18 is part of the Mental Health Services for Older People service at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and provides care for patients with dementia and Alzheimer's who require hospital admission, often for a long period of time.

George Drummond, from Pen-y-lan, has been instrumental in the decoration of the Cwtch giving up his free time to wallpaper and tile the room. George's wife, Elaine, was admitted to the unit in November 2015 but died in May. George has scoured local charity shops and markets to find items that would fit the room, some of which he has re-varnished or made himself to keep costs at a minimum.

George said: "When you have a relative in hospital, there is a lot going on in your mind, and at times it is nice to be able to switch off from what's going on here medically and get involved in a project to benefit everyone.

"Little things like finding wallpaper, tiles or visiting markets and charity shops just takes your mind off things.

"My wife would find comfort in this room as it would make her feel less agitated as she could come in and listen to music.

"Since the room has been finished and open to patients I have never seen the room empty and I used to come in here every day to visit Elaine. People are making a lot of use of it and you don't feel like you are in a hospital environment at all."

George said that the effect the room has on patients outweighs the work that has gone into it, and added: "There is a really calming atmosphere in here which is such a contrast to what it was like before. It restores a little bit of normality to patients, giving them a space to potter about in and this is the key to the success of the area."

Katherine and Ben are both grateful for the support, interest and commitment from families and carers who helped to make the Cwtch into the comfortable space it is now.

Susan Beck's husband William, from Barry, is a patient on East 18. Susan believes that places such as East 18 are essential for families and patients and every time you come through the door you see a friendly face and know that your loved ones are being cared for.

She said: "The Cwtch is so positive and offers so much for people who live in the past and don't live in today.

"The majority of people may not realise that with dementia and Alzheimer's, the brain looks backwards not forwards, so any form of stimulation from the past for people like my husband and other patients is essential."

Lyn James' husband, Roger, is a patient on the ward. She describes the Cwtch as a great addition because it's somewhere he can go and listen to music through the old records provided.

Lyn said: "Everybody has really signed up and got involved in the decoration of the room and wanted to bring things in to contribute. I'm still keeping a look out now for things when I'm out and about that I think would be nice in here.

"It really does benefit patients and it has been proven by how often the area is being used. It has been such an enjoyable project for everyone and it's nice for people who have visitors to have somewhere else to sit, too."

Probus members learn all about comet visitors

ON Tuesday, June 12 David Powell MBE spoke to members of the Dinas Powys Probus Cloub, on 'Comets – Visitors from Space'.

David's interest in astronomy began in the 1960s and he is a founder member of Cardiff Astronomical Society.

Comets can be dramatic, but also potentially dangerous to our Earth. Gas clouds formed at the birth of the solar system eventually, over millions of years, attracted space debris which after time became solid comets.

They contain ice, water, various gases and organic molecules which some scientists believe triggered life on Earth after comet strikes.

Most remain in the Oort cloud (Jan Oort 1900-1992 Dutch astronomer) far beyond Pluto but occasional cloud collisions cause them to ricochet out on erratic trajectories and this can lead to Earth strikes.

There are countless millions of them but from Earth, we see many of the same ones passing close to us every 200 years or so, although one named Halley's Comet re-appears every 60 or 70 years, even though it is slowly falling apart.

It appeared in the sky in 1066 and is shown on the Bayeux Tapestry. Soothsayers then told William the Conqueror that the omens were good for the invasion of Britain.

Isaac Newton did not sit under an apple tree to realise that there was some force attracting comets to pass close to Earth. By watching their behaviour as they passed, he realised that they were pulled around on elliptical orbits, and he discovered gravity.

Edmund Halley, by studying and recognising familiar comets, was able to predict the return, in 1758, of a comet later named after him. After his death, he was proved to be right.

As a comet gets closer to the Sun, the ice turns into gas, known as a 'coma' and this is the familiar comet tail we see, the tail always facing away from the Sun's strong winds.

Charles Messier (1730-1817), a French astronomer, discovered five new comets and offered to name them after members of the French Royal family in return for large sums of money. He duly became very rich. He continued to find new ones and eventually listed around 100 and his list is still in common use today.

Comets can be dangerous to us on Earth as they hurtle through space without, as David said, any brakes. Earth suffered a heavy bombardment 3.8 million years ago and a comet hit in Arizona has left a crater one mile wide and one mile deep.

In 1908, a comet exploded in the sky above Tunguska, Russia, and caused massive devastation which is still visible, but fortunately no deaths.

Strikes seem to occur every 1,000 years or so but are completely unpredictable.

The vote of thanks was given by Graham Russell.

CR

Queen's birthday bash helps raise funds for Tenovus

ON June 12 residents, both past and present, of roads near Flanders Farm celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday, and enjoyed a fun filled afternoon together.

However, it was a double celebration as Tim Moss of Flanders Farm had been awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the community.

Continuing the community spirit, some £850 was raised on the day in memory of local resident Mike Johanson Brown, who died that same weekend. The funds will be donated to Tenovus.

Weddings are to the fore at St Andrew's

St Andrew's Major Golf Club welcomed guests to its first wedding ceremony earlier this month. Club member Jerry Joyce and his wife Michelle enjoyed their experience so much that they said: "We woke up in the morning wanting to do it all over again!"

Model regatta takes to the Cold Knap lake

VALE of Glamorgan Model Boat Club held a regatta at Cold Knap on Saturday, June 4 – the club's first major event.

A spokesman said: "Clubs from south Wales and south west England attended making the day a great success.

"Boats of many styles, sizes, and design where on display for the public to enjoy.

"Thanks must go to the 'Vale Council Parks and Open Spaces' Officers who's support and assistance was invaluable.

"For more club information people can visit our website *www.vgmbc.org* or pop down for a chat any Tuesday or Saturday 10am till 1pm."

HOME CUP LOSS FOR CADOXTON

THE Munro Cup match at Victoria Park, between Cadoxton and Sully Sports resulted in both sides winning two rinks each, but the aggregate going in favour of the visitors.

Howard Craven's rink scored a '4' on the opening end against Keith Roman's rink, but a '4' against on the sixth end took away the lead.

However the advantage was recovered on the 12th and held until the end.

Don Kuhnell also scored a '4' on the first end against Charles Coomber, and the ascendancy was held throughout the game.

After 11 ends the score had reached 18-5, but the visitors rallied in the closing stages and were successful in five of the last seven, very tight, ends, with one end tied, but not enough for victory.

John Jones skipped against Bob Matthews and struggled to stay in the game, scoring just a single during the opening six ends.

A mini revival brought six shots in three ends, but a further four ends were lost, before a spirited reply improved the position with eight shots in the final ends.

On the final rink skip Kelvin Chedgzoy met previous Cadoxton player Graham Brown, who had an advantage of knowing the green better than the home players.

This showed throughout the game and a comprehensive result went in the visitors' favour.

Scores: W Craven, D Hammond, I Robertson, H Craven 18-14 R Knight, P Holland, B Whyman, K Romans; J Stacey, G Solomon, D Evans, D Kuhnell 19-13 B Daniels, M Morgan, G Trickett, C Coomber; E Heppenstall, J Papoutsou, D Fanning, J Jones 15-23 D Austin, M Stafford, A Collard, B Matthews; R Morris, I Heppenstall, R Byrne, K Chedgzoy 9-21 J Kirk, P Robbins, G Currie, G Brown. Final score: 61-71.

CADOXTON A V CENTRAL

Cadoxton A side came out on top in this home ML7 match with Central.

Ian Heppenstall had a comfortable win on his rink with S Downer as the opposite number. With the score at 11-9, a '5' boosted the home score which opened a substantial lead and improved even more in the final ends.

Roy Harding scored a '6' on the 13th end to boost his close advantage against John Wathes, and held the advantage to the end.

Central had a player short in the final rink which was skipped by Don Goddard against David Fanning, but they managed to win their game after losing a quarter of their score.

Scores: E Heppenstall, J Papoutsou, J Jones, D Fanning 14-16 M Heale, G Carstairs, D Goddard; A Carpenter, A Prince, I Robertson, R Byrne 16-11 D Hunt, A Castle, A Rogers, T Goddard; W Craven, G Solomon, H Craven, I Heppenstall 23-12 R Pearce, J Froud, T Kaged, S Downer; R Morris, M Curtis, D Hammond, R Harding 21-12 B Parker, P Harris, G Goldthorpe, J Wathes. Final score: 74-51.

DK

Millwood Bowls Club news round-up

MILLWOOD came a fairly distant second place in this latest round of the Munro Cup against a determined Murch side whose rink 5, skipped by R. Mauchlin, managed a 20 shot winning margin over Millwood, thereby ensuring that the 75-58 win went to the away side.

The signs looked a bit ominous for Millwood, even after the first four ends had been played when Murch galloped into a 5-28 shot advantage.

At the eighth end, the score had not changed too dramatically, for Murch still held a commanding lead over Millwood to lead by the margin of 21 shots to 42

As hard as they tried to make any kind of imprint on the lead, Millwood, after the 13th end had been played, were still 41 shots to 59 in arrears, only to finish the cup tie going down by the 17 shot difference.

Travelling up to Blaenrhondda for this division 4 league game, Millwood went into this game lying second with Blaenrhondda in third place, so a bit of a keen tussle was expected with neither side wanting to give the other any leeway if possible.

When the first five of the 21 ends had been played, Millwood found themselves behind by seven shots at 14-21, but they soon got to grips with their game plan – after the 10th both teams were level pegging with the score 40-40.

The home side then started to pull away from Millwood, for after the 15th end, Blaenrhondda had opened up a 19 shot margin to lead by 44 shots to 63.

Blaenrhondda held onto their lead, and at the final end the score was in their favour, 85-73. Thanks to Blaenrhondda for their hospitality after the game.

Entertaining Barry Masonic in a friendly game, there were a few Millwood players playing for Masonic, so there was just a little bit of 'one-upmanship' to the game played.

Millwood had opened up the slightest of leads after the fourth end to 9 shots to 8, which Masonic soon turned around, and at the eighth end Masonic were leading by 19 shots to 25.

The lead increased even further after the 13th end, because Masonic were in front by the margin of 11 shots at 34 shots to 45.

Although Millwood, tried to turn the score around, Masonic held onto their lead and ran out winners by a margin of only six shots, 57-63 being the final score.

This weekend, July 1-3, at Millwood, the Deaf Bowlers Internationals are taking place. The four home nations are playing so support would be welcome.

Cowbridge edge thriller

COWBRIDGE CC's first XI won their second successive game on Saturday at Bronwydd to lift themselves out of the SWCA Division One relegation zone.

With three balls remaining Cowbridge needed two to win with nine wickets down. A scampered single levelled the score, a dot ball heightened the drama but a sneaked single from the ever cool Joe Russell was enough to get the lads home.

The picturesque Bronwydd ground nestles in the Towy Valley north of Carmarthen. Cowbridge skipper Chris Willey won the toss and invited the home side to bat.

An excellent spell from Jake George (3-13 off 10) was well backed up by Thomas Harper (2-24) and towards the end of the innings by Rian Thomas (2-23).

The home total was 155 all out in what proved to be a crucial 49 overs allowing Cowbridge 51 to get the target.

At first it seemed the target would be easily achievable. Tom Merilaht and Chris Willey (34) getting the score to 77 before Chris was bowled.

Tom ploughed on but wickets fell as the score mounted. By the time Merilaht left the scene for a well played 53 there were 14 needed with three wickets left.

Some lusty blows from Matthew Harper (13) and brother Thomas (12) got Cowbridge to the verge of success but a run out left them needing composure as the final moments were played out.

It was Thomas Harper who took the plaudits for his fearless hitting towards the end and eventually getting the team home.

Cowbridge's good form in the past three weeks gives hope for a decent finishing spot. The halfway mark will be reached when Llanelli visit the Athletic Ground on Saturday.

Don't forget the MCC visit on Friday and it's the president's lunch on Sunday - for further information call Jeffrey Bird on 07976 793629.

JB

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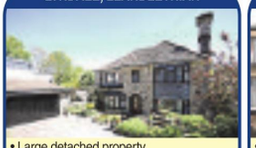

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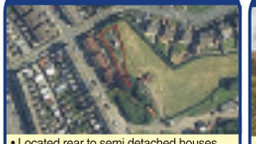

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• TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• FAR REACHING SEA VIEWS
• 3RD FLOOR APARTMENT
• PERIOD BUILDING
• DESIGNATED PARKING
• WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
• ER=C
£118,000

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

CLIVE ROAD, BARRY
• MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• THREE BEDROOMS
• GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
• THROUGH LOUNGE/DINER
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
• UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
• GCH VIA COMBI BOILER
• WATERFRONT VIEWS
• NO CHAIN
• ER=D
£118,500

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

ABERYSTWYTH CRESCENT, BARRY
• MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• THROUGH LIVING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN
• W.C. CLOAKROOM
• TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• WELL PRESENTED
• NO CHAIN
• ER=E
£119,999

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

QUEEN STREET, BARRY
• MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• LIVINGDINING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN
• TWO BEDROOMS
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• WELL MAINTAINED & REFURBISHED
• ELEVATED REAR GARDEN
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
• ER=D
£125,000

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

RUTHEN TERRACE, BARRY
• SEMI DETACHED
• 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• LIVING ROOM
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• UPVC D/G & GCH
• DRIVEWAY WITH AMPLE PARKING
• LEVEL ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• NO CHAIN
• ER=D
£132,000

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

COURT ROAD, BARRY
• MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• 25FT FITTED KITCHEN
• THROUGH LIVING ROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS (ENSUITE)
• FAM. BATHROOM
• ENCLOSED COURTYARD GARDEN
• NEAR SHOPS & ALL AMENITIES
• ER=D
£136,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

FIELD VIEW ROAD, BARRY
• THREE BEDROOM
• SEMI DETACHED
• LIVING ROOM,DINING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN
• ENCLOSED LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
• DRIVEWAY/GARAGE
• BACKING ONTO FIELDS
• ER=
£139,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
• END OF TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
• ENCLOSED LEVEL REAR GARDEN
• OUTHOUSE LEADING TO FRONT
• WELL PRESENTED
• NO CHAIN
• VIEWING ADVISED
• ER=E
£142,500

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
• TRADITIONAL BAY FRONTED
• TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
• FOUR BEDROOMS
• TOWN CENTRE LOCATION
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• DOUBLE GARAGE
• UPVC D/G & GCH VIA COMBI BOILER
• ER=D
£144,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

COURT ROAD, BARRY
• MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• MODERNISED THROUGHOUT
• ORIGINAL FEATURES REMAINING
• TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST,UTILITY
• THREE BEDROOMS
• 24 X 18FT GARAGE
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• TOWN CENTRE LOCATION
• ER=D
£155,500

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

GLAMORGAN STREET, BARRY
• SHOW HOME PRESENTED
• MID TERRACE TRADITIONAL
• LOUNGE/LIVING ROOM & DINING ROOM
• 3 BEDROOMS
• ORIGINAL FEATURES
• MODERN KITCHEN WITH INTEGRATED COOKER
• 2016 REPLACEMENT COMBI BOILER
• NEW BATHROOM
• NO CHAIN
• ER=E
£157,500

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

DUNRAVEN STREET, BARRY
• MID TERACED TRADITIONAL
• THROUGH LIVING/DINING ROOM
• SPACIOUS KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• REPLACEMENT WET ROOM TO G. FLOOR
• THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• MASTER ENSUITE BATHROOM
• ENCLOSED GARDEN WITH GARAGE
• NO CHAIN
• ER=D
£159,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

WHITMORE PARK DRIVE, BARRY
• MODERN SEMI DETACHED
• THREE BEDROOMS
• LIVING ROOM
• DINING ROOM - OPEN PLAN KITCHEN
• CONSERVATORY
• GAS CENTRAL HEATING
• UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
• DRIVEWAY PROVIDING OFF ROAD PARKING
• NO CHAIN
• ER=D
£164,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

WHITMORE PARK DRIVE, BARRY
• WELL PRESENTED
• CORNER POSITIONED SEMI DETACHED
• LIVING ROOM
• DINING -OPEN PLAN KITCHEN
• THREE BEDROOMS
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
• GARAGE/AMPLE PARKING
• LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN
• ER=C
£179,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

NELSON ROAD, BARRY
• VERSATILE SEMI DETACHED DWELLING
• GRD FL: LIVING ROOM, CONSERVATORY
• TWO BEDROOMS, FAMILY BATHROOM
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
• 1ST FL: MASTER BEDROOM, ENSUITE BATHROOM
• GARAGE, AMPLE PARKING
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• ER=D
£179,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

OXFORD STREET, BARRY
• WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
• MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• TWO BEDROOMS,DINING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• UTILITY AREA,W.C. CLOAKROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• BACKING ONTO WOODLAND
• VIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED
• ER=D
£189,000

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

OXFORD STREET, BARRY
• WELL PRESENTED & SPACIOUS
• MID TERRACED BAY FRONTED
• LIVING ROOM, DINING ROOM
• 'CREFT' REPLACEMENT KITCHEN WITH INTEGRATED APPLIANCES
• UTILITY AREA,W.C. CLOAKROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS
• INFORMAL HOBBY/ATTIC ROOM
• ENCLOSED SOUTH FACING GARDEN
• ER=D
£199,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

WHITE FARM, BARRY
• PERSIMMON BUILT - 1 YEAR
• MODERN DETACHED
• LIVING ROOM
• KITCHEN/DINER
• W.C. CLOAKROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS
• MASTER EN-SUITE
• GARAGE/DRIVEWAY
• NO CHAIN
• ER=D
£199,999

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
• BAY FRONTED SEMI DETACHED
• LIVING ROOMDINING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN
• CONSERVATORY
• THREE BEDROOMS
• SPACIOUS FAM. BATHROOM
• DRIVEWAY/GARAGE
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• VIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED
• ER=E
£224,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

BLODYN Y GOG, BARRY
• SPLIT LEVEL PROPERTY
• 4 BEDROOMS
• GROUND FL: CLOAKROOM, LOUNGE WITH BALCONY
• DINING ROOM, KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• BEDROOM 4/STUDY
• LOWER LEVEL: 3 BEDROOMS
• EN SUITE SHOWER ROOM
• FAMILY BATHROOM & UTILITY
• PARKING FOR SEVERAL CARS
• ER=D
£259,950

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
• SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED DWELLING
• ORIGINALLY A CARE HOME
• TO THE GRND FLR: THREE REC. ROOMS
• KITCHEN OFFICE, W.C. & SHOWER ROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS, LAUNDRY
• TO THE 2ND FLR: TWELVE ROOMS
• NINE W.C.'S, ONE SEPARATE BATHROOM
• NO CHAIN- VACANT POSSESSION
• UPVC DG- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
• ER=D
£324,999

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

MARINE DRIVE, BARRY
• MODERN DETACHED DWELLING
• LIVING ROOM,DINING ROOM
• STUDY/SITTING ROOM
• W.C. CLOAKROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN,UTILITY RM
• FOUR BEDROOMS, MASTER EN-SUITE
• DOUBLE GARAGE/DRIVEWAY
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• NO CHAIN
• EPC=D
£379,950

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- Idyllic country location

EPC = D

£650,000

Llanmaes Vale of Glamorgan

- Well presented 4 bedroom detached property
- Well appointed kitchen/dining room
- Sitting room with stone feature fire place
- Conservatory leading to large garden
- Country views

EPC = D

£475,000

Corntown Vale of Glamorgan

- Beautifully presented detached residence
- 3 reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen / breakfast room
- 4 bedrooms with en-suite to bedroom one. Family bathroom
- Garage and Driveway

EPC = C

£435,000

Ewenny Vale of Glamorgan

- Versatile split level family house
- 3 bedrooms principal with en suite bathroom
- 2 large reception rooms
- Well appointed kitchen
- Large gardens, double garage and private drive

EPC = F

£420,000

Llantwit Major Vale of Glamorgan

- Detached family sized bungalow
- 4 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms
- Kitchen / Dining Room
- Lounge
- Large Plot, garage, outbuilding
- Multiple off road parking

EPC = F £399,950

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EPC = D £299,950

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Brynhill ladies make the final 16 of Welsh golf championship

Members of the team on day two with their caddies. Lynda Lloyd (second right) replaced Jan Robertson in the match.

A TEAM of ladies from Brynhill Golf Club entered the Golf Union of Wales Team Championships last week.

Played over four days, the knockout competition took place on June 16-19, at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, where 32 teams from golf clubs all over Wales competed.

The Brynhill team, captained by Mrs Sam Pascoe was: Gemma Evans, Linda Hewlett, Ann Phillips, Jan Robertson and Lynda Lloyd. Together with their caddies and supporters, they travelled the short distance to compete.

Day one: The ladies started play in heavy rain but as the rain stopped and the sky cleared, the team won against the ladies from Cradoc Golf Club.

The Day One team: Jan Robertson, Linda Hewlett, Sam Pascoe (captain), Ann Phillips and Gemma Evans.

Day two: Torrential rain delayed tee off for nearly an hour and although it rained throughout the match, the team battled on. However, the very strong team from Wrexham golf club won.

The winners of the competition were the team from Newport golf club. Well done, ladies.

LT

Bryn Hafren wins the Cardiff Games!

SPORT Cardiff is pleased to announce that following 18 competitions across 15 sports, the winners of the Cardiff Games Secondary School Competition for 2015-2016 in the Vale of Glamorgan area is Bryn Hafren Comprehensive.

Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Cowbridge Comprehensive ranked second and third respectively.

This year's Cardiff Games saw 6,783 pupils of varying abilities compete and represent their school at Cardiff's best sporting venues including the International White Water Centre, Boulders Climbing Centre and Cardiff University's playing fields.

Bryn Hafren competed in 12 of the 18 competitions, with Ysgol Glantaf committing to 14 competitive opportunities for pupils in years 7 to 9.

This has been the first year that Vale schools have been invited to the Games and it proved a popular decision with seven of the high schools based in the Vale taking part, supported by the Vale sports development team.

For more information on the Cardiff Games, please visit the website www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/cardiff-games.

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for June 21:

1st Jenny Vaughan & Mark Roderick 61.46%; 2nd Peter Millar & Mike Close 56.77%; 3rd Alan Jones & Lyn Matthews 54.69% - Dave Reed and Bryn Gough won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

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NEW PRICE

COIGNE TERRACE, BARRY
£100,000
Two bedroom bay fronted property situated within the heart of Barry. Accommodation briefly comprising; Entrance porch. Living room. Kitchen. Bathroom to the first floor. Enclosed forecourt and rear garden. NO CHAIN.

NEW

LLEWELLYN STREET, BARRY
£104,950
Newly refurbished three bedroom mid terrace property located in central Barry. Accommodation briefly comprising; Entrance hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Modern fitted kitchen and ground floor bathroom. NO CHAIN.

WINDSOR ROAD, BARRY
£107,500
Two double bedroom apartment comprising; Communal hallway. Entrance hall. Open plan lounge/kitchen/diner. Master bedroom with en-suite shower room. NO CHAIN.

WEST END

BELL STREET, BARRY
£130,000
COMPLETELY RENOVATED THROUGHOU. Two bedroom mid terrace comprising; Entrance porch. Living room. Modern fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c/utility room and first floor bathroom. NO CHAIN.

EXTENDED

LEWIS STREET-, BARRY
£181,950
Extended, four bedroom semi detached. Entrance porch. Hallway. Two reception rooms. Kitchen. Utility room. Bathroom to ground floor and shower room to first first. Enclosed rear garden and forecourt. Driveway.

FAMILY HOME

REDBRINK CRESCENT, BARRY
£205,000
Four bedroom bay fronted property comprising; Entrance hallway. Lounge through sitting room. Large kitchen and family bathroom. Utility room.

NEW & EXTENDED

LISCUM WAY, HIGHLIGHT PARK, BARRY
£239,950
Four bedroom detached property comprising; Entrance hallway. Downstairs w/c. Lounge. Dining room extending into sitting room. Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Driveway. NO CHAIN.

NEW

PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
£239,950
Three double bedroom semi-detached property comprising; Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted kitchen, Sun room and Downstairs w/c. Large rear garden. Driveway for four/five vehicles leading to garage.

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
£240,000
Three bedroom semi detached property comprising; Hallway. Lounge. Dining Room. Lean-to/Summer room. Fitted kitchen. Family bathroom. Front and rear large south facing gardens. Driveway and Garage.

NEW

FFORDD CWM CIDI, WEST END BARRY
£294,950
Four bedroom detached property comprising; Entrance hallway. Lounge. Kitchen/dining room. Cloakroom. Family bathroom and en suite to master bedroom. Rear garden. Driveway and garage.

GWENFO DRIVE, BARRY
£304,950
Four bedroom detached property comprising; Entrance hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Kitchen. Utility room. Downstairs w/c and bathroom to first floor. Garage. Gardens to front, side and rear. NO CHAIN

BIRCH GROVE, BARRY
£305,000
This three bedroom semi detached property situated on the Knap within the West end of Barry. Accommodation briefly comprising; Entrance hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Conservatory. Kitchen. Utility area. Cloakroom. NO CHAIN.

WEST END

WELL WALK, BARRY
£305,000
Three bedroom semi detached comprising; Entrance Hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Fitted kitchen. Downstairs w/c. Conservatory. Family bathroom. Driveway for two vehicles.

NEW

PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
£335,000
Four bedroom detached chalet style bungalow comprising; Porch. Large entrance hallway. Generous living room. Kitchen/breakfast room. Utility room. Four bathroom/shower rooms. Wrap around garden. Carport. NO CHAIN.

NEW

TYNEWYYD ROAD, BARRY
£354,950
COMPLETELY REFURBISHED Four bedroom detached comprising; Entrance porch. Hallway. Three reception rooms. Kitchen. Downstairs w/c. First floor bathroom. Wrap around gardens. Driveway providing off road parking for two vehicles. Detached garage.

PERIOD FEATURES

ROMILLY PARK, BARRY
£399,000
Five bedrooms. Entrance porch. Hallway. Three reception rooms. Kitchen. Bathroom. Shower room. Family bathroom. Enclosed gardens to front and rear. Partial sea views. NO CHAIN.

NEW

COLD KNAP WAY, BARRY
£435,000
Detached bungalow comprising; Entrance porch. Dining hall. Kitchen. Conservatory. Utility room. Store room. Cloakroom. Sitting room. Lounge. Bathroom. Pool room. Loft room. Roof terrace. Enclosed front and rear gardens. Double and single garages. NO CHAIN.

NEW

PARK ROAD, WEST END, BARRY
£439,000
RARE TO THE MARKET ..... This well presented and maintained three bedroom detached property comprising; Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge. Large kitchen. Utility area. Large loft space. Annex with living accommodation.

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West End Terrace, Llantwit Major
2 Beds. Gardens. 2015 GCH Combi.
West End Location.
£194,950 C69

Windmill Close, Wick
4 Beds. 2 Recps.
Conservatory.
Double Garage.
£399,950 D62

Broughton Road, Wick
4 Bedrooms.
Conservatory.
Village Location.
£275,000 D66

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St. Johns View, St Athan
2 Beds. Conservatory.
Garage. Driveway.
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£194,950 E40

Cwrt Syr Dafydd, Llantwit Major
3 Beds. 3 Recps.
Utility. Conservatory.
Open Green Space to Rear.
£259,950 E51

Tyle House Close, Llanmaes
3 Bedrooms.
En-Suite. No Chain.
Impressive Driveway.
£259,950 E50

Partridge Road, St Athan
2 Beds. Loft Room.
GCH Combi.
Countryside Views.
£105,950 E45

Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
2015 Combi. UPVC.
Ideal First Time Buy.
£139,950 F37

Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan
3 Bedrooms.
2 Receptions
Garage. Driveway
£174,950 D58

Tyle House Close, Llanmaes
4 Beds. 2 Recps.
Driveway. Garage.
Sought After Village.
£349,950 C69

St Davids Crescent, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Southerly Rear
No Chain, Parking
£114,950 C70

Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
Driveway for 3 Cars.
Potential to extend.
£139,950 E50

Glebeland Place, St Athan
3 Beds. 3 Recps.
Extended. Garage.
100' Garden.
£174,950 E51

Milton Close, Llantwit Major
3 Beds. Conservatory.
Garage. Driveway.
Mature Gardens.
£275,000 D63

Ash Lane, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Rarely Available
Potential to Extend
£149,950 D64

Llantwit Road, St Athan
4 Beds. 2 Recps.
Shower Rm. Utility.
Requires Work.
£229,950 D55

Wine Street, Llantwit Major
3 Double Beds.
2 Impressive Recps.
No Forward Chain.
£299,950 E48

Stag Lane, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
West End Location
Off Road Parking
£159,950 F23

103 Boverton Road
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Detached Garage
£499,950 E55

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Park Road, Barry
Two Double Bedrooms
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E41. Band C
£525 PCM

Burlington Street, Barry
Two Bedrooms
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Shower
D64. Band B
£595 PCM

St Michael's Close, St Athan
Large Double Bedroom
Detached Property
Modern Bathroom
Modern Kitchen/Diner
E41. Band D
£725 PCM

Station Street, Barry
Well presented
Four Bedrooms
Large Kitchen
D57. Band C
£775 PCM

Gildas Close, Llantwit Major
Three Bedrooms
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Ideal Investment
£118,000 D66

Dimlands Road, West End of Llantwit Llantwit Major
4 Beds. 2 Recps. Driveway. Garage.
Rare Opportunity.
£479,950 F25

St. Johns Hill, St. Athan
2 Beds. Driveway.
Superb Period Cottage.
No Chain.
£189,950 F28

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Family Notices

MAXINE
Louise Pitcock
(Née Stephenson)

Maxine of Broughton Place, Barry. Passed away suddenly on 19th May 2016, aged 40 years. Adored wife of David, dearly loved mother of Jay, Morgan and Farren, grandmother of Skyler, much loved daughter of Jean, much loved sister of Sandra and Liam and wonderful aunty to Esmae.

Funeral to take place at A.G. Adams, Gladstone Road, Barry on Friday, 8th July at 10am, followed by burial at Barry Cemetery. Flowers or if desired donations to Changing Faces c/o A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Directors, Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA, tel: 01446 735128. Dress, Black and Bling.

RUSSELL
Malcolm Stanley

Peacefully on June 21 at Llandough Hospital, Malcolm well known for his time as secretary for Mencap, Barry. Beloved husband of the late Pam, much loved dad of Jason and the late Gareth.

Malcolm will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181, Court Road, Barry until his service & committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Tuesday, July 5 at 3pm. Family flowers only - Donations if desired may be made at the service to support Wales Air Ambulance.

TURNER
(Née Appleyard)
Margaret Ann (Maggie)

Suddenly at home on June 16, Maggie, beloved wife of Russ, much loved mum of Sian, Rhian and Owain, cherished nanny to Naomi and Samuel.

Maggie will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service on Friday, July 1 at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church at 12.45pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired for Ty Hafan c/o the funeral director.

PROTHEROE
Eric Roy

Peacefully on June 24 at the University Hospital of Wales, Eric well known for his time at British Rail, Barry and also Barry Town Football Club. Beloved husband of the late June. Loving dad and bampy of Kevin, Roy and their families.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday, July 1 at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, may be made at the service to British Heart Foundation and Salvation Army in memory of Eric.

THOMAS
Grace

Peacefully on June 26 at Llandough Hospital, Grace beloved wife of the late Ivor and dearly loved mother of Rhys and Chris. Dear mother- in-law of Lynne and Julie, a much loved nan, great-nan and great-great nan of Mark and Nat, Ceri and Craig, Victoria and Gareth, Mark, Aaron, Becci, Demi, Maddie, Elena, Ethan, Elodie and baby Oscar.

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JOHANSON-BROWN
Michael John

Regrettably Mr Johanson-Brown's name was spelt incorrectly in the obituary notice and the funeral directors would like to apologise for this error.

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Acknowledgements

STOCK
Geoffrey

Jeanette, Charlotte, Alice and families wish to thank their friends, family and neighbours for their cards and support in memory of Geoff.

Geoff and I, during his illness over the past 15 months, have experienced such kindness, which meant so much.

A big thank you to Collegefields Nursing Home for their care and support of Geoff during his illness.

Thank you again Jeanette

McNEILL
Jim

Wendy and family of the late Jim McNeill, a cherished husband, father and grampy, would like to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent sad loss.

The family would like to thank every one for the many cards and letters of condolence, along with the generous donations made in respect of Holme Towers, Penarth. Our deepest gratitude to Dr Rhys Hardwick for the excellent and caring treatment Jim always received during his illness.

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A summit meeting for Cadoxton WI

ON June 7, nine intrepid members dusted off their crampons and high-altitude gear to tackle the south face of Gnoll Park, Neath – the choice of this year's GFWI Treasure Trail.

Base camp was reached by lunch, and after a suitable recovery period only four members continued the assault upwards. The reward – for these four ladies who went above and beyond – was second place. Atta girls!

Our speaker on June 20 was Nona Hexter, who explained about all things Age Connect, an organisation providing help from nail cutting to cancer support, and advocacy to hospital discharge. It also has a 'free service' shop in Holton Road, Barry opening Monday to Friday in the mornings. We are very lucky to have such a comprehensive choice for the older generation.

The winners of this month's raffle were June and Sharon.

Next month's speaker is Tony Pugh on the Abergavenny Canal, a trip we are doing later that month.

We meet at Victoria Park Community Centre Cadoxton July 18 at 7pm. New members are very welcome.

For more information call Chris 01446 404891.

CW

Schedules available for Dinas Powys village show

THE schedules for this very popular annual event on Saturday, September 3 are now available.

Please visit the organisations detailed and collect yours: Dinas Powys Council Office, Britway Road; the library at Fairoaks, DP; Nisalocal Store, and TH Jones Ltd., Chemists, both at Cardiff Road, DP; Penarth Library; Valley View Fruit Stores, DP; Brynawel Fuschia and Garden Centre, Sully Road; White Gecko Craft Lounge, Camms Corner, DP as well as The Wild Blackberry Delicatessen, Elmgrove Road, DP.

There are more than 110 classes for all ages from three to whatever! so why not pick up a schedule and see what's on offer for you to enter?

The show also has many attractions on the day and full details will be published later on.

Any enquiries can be made from Val Hartrey on 2051 3274 or valhartrey@talktalk.net.

VAL HARTREY

Strawberries and trad jazz for local Voluntary Concern

Georgia Jazz Quartet.

DINAS Powys Voluntary Concern is holding its annual Strawberry Tea in the Lee Hall and Gardens, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, at 2pm on Wednesday, July 13.

This event has become a red-letter day in the social calendar in Dinas Powys and a great afternoon out for everyone. It is an example of the way in which the residents and organisations in this village work together for the benefit of the whole community.

Members of Dinas Powys WI are donating and serving a wonderful range of cakes; tea and coffee will be available, as will delicious strawberries donated by Huw Evans of NisaLocal on Cardiff Road.

The Georgia Jazz Quartet is playing trad jazz all afternoon so come along for a great foot-tapping afternoon out!

Tickets are £5 and are available in advance from the Parish Hall in Dinas Powys or from Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys or telephone 029 2051 3700.

C FRANKS

Good news in Vale

Graham Ellis of Gideon International (third from left, above) with Coun Egan and other mayors in the Vale.

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun Stuart Egan, recently welcomed Gideon International representative Graham Ellis to the mayor's parlour.

An annual event, Mr Ellis was very pleased to return to the parlour to present a Gideon Bible to Coun Egan and the mayors of Llantwit Major, Barry and Cowbridge, who thanked Mr Ellis.

Plaudits for homework club

THE Vale Homework Club at Stewart Road Community Centre in Rhoose, run by volunteers and led by award-winning adult learner Cath Watkins, is making a huge difference to children and young people.

That was Jane Hutt' AM's view when she visited the Sunday afternoon 'drop-in' maths session to meet parent volunteers and young people attending the club, which is supported by the Vale Youth Service.

She has been a long-term supporter of the homework club, which has recently been registered as a charity.

The AM said: "We are very fortunate to have such an inspiring initiative based in Rhoose, making such a difference to the educational prospects of children and young people in the Vale.

"The voluntary commitment of parents who are successful adult learners themselves is fantastic, as we celebrate Adult Learners Week. Congratulations again to Cath Watkins and her volunteers!"

Art workshop

THE Knap Community Action Group is presenting a free drawing and painting workshop on Sunday, July 3.

The workshop, from 10am – 1pm at The Knap lake and gardens, Barry will be free to join.

Some materials will be provided, but artists of all levels are requested to bring their pencils, pads and paints, and join professional artist Glyn Pooley for a friendly tutored painting class.

The group will meet under the marquee at the bridge end of the park, and if you would like further information email glyn@glynpooley.com or call 07854 375891.

Lee gears up for cycling challenge

A BEREAVED dad will be tackling Tŷ Hafan's popular Taff Trail Cycle Challenge to support the charity that helped him and his family when his baby son died.

When Lee Morgan and his partner, Lucy Froley, took their eight-week-old son Ezra to the doctor with a chest infection, they never thought that a fortnight later they would be saying their final goodbyes to their son.

Ezra was taken to the University Hospital of Wales, where he was put on a life-support machine. He was diagnosed with SMA Type 1, a rare genetic muscular condition, and was referred to Tŷ Hafan shortly after.

Lucy said: "Ezra survived 24 hours after being taken off the ventilator. In those 24 hours, Tŷ Hafan made so many memories happen for us – hand and foot prints of Ezra and his two-year-old sister, and fingerprints on little butterflies.

"Before Ezra passed away on March 6, we had the most fabulous and magical day anyone in our circumstances could dream of. All thanks to Tŷ Hafan."

Lee, from Bridgend, is now taking on Tŷ Hafan's Taff Trail Cycle challenge on Sunday, September 4 as a way to show his appreciation for the charity that continues to support his family.

He said: "I decided to sign up for the Taff Trail Challenge to give something back to Tŷ Hafan and to help other families who need their support. I didn't know about the charity until we had Ezra. It's not something you expect to happen, but I'm so glad we had Tŷ Hafan's support."

Named the 'Ez Racers', Lee will be completing the 79 kilometre challenge from Brecon to Cardiff with three of his friends.

Lee said: "It has been great to get to know some of the other dads. We always have a laugh and it's good to spend time with people going through something similar."

To sign up or to find out about volunteering opportunities visit www.tyhafan.org.

Local writer releases work on 'Glamorgan's Greatest Generation'

"IT'S now 70 years since the end of the Second World War, and those who lived through those momentous years are getting fewer in number each year," said Porthcawl author Malcolm Cowper, "so I decided to try to capture their memories before it was too late."

Mr Cowper interviewed some 40 people in the former Glamorgan county, and talked to men who served in the front line, women who laboured in the factories producing vital weapons of war, and children with memories of evacuation, gas masks, and nights spent in air raid shelters.

There are recollections of a man who survived the horrors of a Japanese prison camp; women who did dangerous work of manufacturing bombs at the Bridgend Arsenal; and of a young boy in the Swansea blitz, wearing only his underpants and carrying his younger brother on his back, running for shelter as bombs rained down.

"Talking to the war veterans was fascinating," said Malcolm.

"I came to realise what an extraordinary generation they were, and how much we owe them for their fortitude and resilience in the face of one of the most barbaric and ruthless enemies this country has ever had to face. God knows how awful our lives would be today if we had lost that war."

Glamorgan's Greatest Generation is a collection of stories of ordinary people living through extraordinary times, capturing the comradeship, humour and sense of duty that carried them through fear, loss and sacrifice.

He was born in Bridgwater, Somerset in 1946, and the following year moved with his family to South Wales. He grew up in Southerndown, Bridgend and Porthcawl.

Glamorgan's Greatest Generation is published by Rowanvale Books.

Battle of Mametz Wood recalled

A HUNDRED years ago, between July 7 and 12, 1916, one of the fiercest battles on the Western Front, the Battle of Mametz Wood was fought.

Most of the British forces involved were Welsh from the 38th (Welsh) Division.

It was a particularly fierce and bloody battle, and there were almost 4,000 British casualties.

Among the dead were a number of Penarth men.

To commemorate this event, the eminent military historian Dr Jonathan Hicks (headmaster of St Cyres School, and author of *The Welsh at Mametz Wood*), will be giving a talk entitled 'Voices of Mametz Wood, July 1916', in the parish hall, Albert Road, CF64 1BX, on Saturday, July 16 at 6pm for 6.30pm.

This event has been organised by the Friends of St Augustine's Church. Entrance on the door, £5 (Friends, £4). There will be wine available.

RICHARD GRIFFITHS
for the Friends of St Augustine's

Royals celebrate Wales past and present

THE Duchess of Cornwall will visit Bridgend in July as part of a week-long roster of events for her and the Prince of Wales.

The Duchess, who is patron of homeless charity Emmaus UK, will open Emmaus South Wales, the organisation's first residential community in the county.

Other events include the Prince officially opening Swansea University's new Bay Campus, and the Duchess visiting the Norwegian Church Arts Centre in Cardiff, as part of the 'Roald Dahl 100' celebrations.

The Solstice – U3A walkers at large!

THIS year's summer solstice coincided with the full moon for the first time in nearly 50 years, and it won't do so again until 2062.

It was therefore an evening when all sorts of weird creatures were at large – werewolves, fairies, hobgoblins and Cowbridge U3A walkers.

The weather had been foul that morning, but all credit to the Met Office, which was spot on with its prediction of a fine evening.

Seven of us gathered for dinner at the Ty Nant in Morganstown before driving up to the hilltop village of Pentyrch, where we met five more of our members, to walk up to the summit – at just over 1,000 feet – of The Garth, in time for sunset at 9.33pm. We were there enjoying its fabulous 360° view well before sundown, and in good time to imbibe the two bottles of fizz we'd brought with us to toast the summer sun. (Yes, we've been drinking in a public place again.)

As the sun was hidden behind clouds, we didn't actually see it 'sink' into the horizon, but we did shortly afterwards see an ever-changing blood-red sky spanning over 180°, with mist rising on the countryside below, and a huge amber moon rising over Cardiff. It was quite spectacular, and made all our efforts worthwhile.

Our walk was just over three miles in its entirety. It was about 10.45pm by the time we got back to our cars with bats flying over us, but with the full moon having emerged again from behind clouds, it wasn't really dark.

VEM

Christening celebration at church

SAINT David's Methodist Church on The Colcot, Barry, would like to invite all those whose children have been christened in the past few years to a special service.

This 'Celebration of Christening' takes place this Sunday, July 3, at 3pm.

The minister and baptism stewards have visited or posted invitations to all those families who have had a child christened in the past four years, and anyone who has been christened in previous years is warmly welcome. During the service, the names of all those baptised in recent years will be read out in the prayers, Rev Peter Taylor explained.

"You are welcome to bring your child's baptism candle, and why not bring a photo of your child's christening to share on a display in the church?

"After the short service, there will be an opportunity to take pictures, share memories and enjoy some refreshments. "

For more information, contact 01446 406262 , or revpete@live.co.uk.

PT

Belle Vue's loss on road at Ely

BELLE VUE took on Ely BC at Fairwater on Saturday, June 18 in a Cardiff League match.

Belle Vue lost 55-96 to Ely, one rink winning and three losing, giving 12 points to Ely and 2 points for Belle Vue.

Rink one lost 13-29. Lead was Frank Keen, no 2 was Gordon Ford, no 3 Graham Duggan and the skip was Paul Paterson.

Rink two won with only three players 19-15. Lead was Dave Smith, no 3 was Dave Miller and skip was captain Malcolm Thomas.

Rink three went down 32-12 after starting off with a big lead. However, after the break they could only manage one shot. Lead was Rowland Fletcher, no 2 was Dave Rappitt, no 3 was Richard Brant playing in a new position. The skip was Trevor Ford.

Rink four went down 11-20. The lead was Gerry Field, no 2 was Paul Booth, no 3 was Barrie Bagwell and the skip was Dave Purser.

MUNRO CUP

Belle Vue against Cowbridge BC was played at Belle Vue in the Munro Cup on Wednesday, June 22.

On a cloudy, clammy evening at Belle Vue, the home team posted a big win with only 14 players. three rinks won and one had a draw. Belle Vue 13, Cowbridge 1 point.

The final score was Belle Vue 82 shots to Cowbridge's 38.

Belle Vue is a very friendly club and welcome any new members. **FK**

Cowbridge bowlers battle neighbours

WHEN the 2016 fixture list was printed, members noted the dates of matches against our near neighbours, Llantwit Major.

These matches are always keenly contested. Results, historically, favour the home team and this was the case last week when both ladies and the men's teams played Llantwit in league games.

First up were the ladies at home which Cowbridge won with conviction.

Kay Edwards and her team were outstanding, winning by 24 shots to 6. Kay was supported by Dorothy Pritchard, Maggie Penn and Lynda Wilson.

Other rink scores were: Lin Wallace, Corrie Bufton, Jan Lewis and Joan Bradley 20-14; Sian Lewis, May Jones, Sylvia Hole and Shirley Wilkinson 17-11. There will be a return match in August.

The men travelled to Llantwit for their league match last Saturday. The match was played on a good grass green but Cowbridge were comprehensively beaten on all four rinks.

Rink scores: Terry Dunsworth, Bryan Hole, Guy Morton and Norman Wilkinson 12-39; Mansel Davey, Len Taylor, Tony Lewis and Bob Penn 12-38; Charles Sanders, John Jones, John Trott and Roger Barwick 10-23;

Ron Frayling, Rob Lewis, Clive Pritchard and Alan Wallace 15-21. There will be a return match also in August.

The ladies and men played earlier away games in the week on greens heavy following overnight rain.

The ladies lost in a two rink evening league game at Fairwater, while the men lost to Belle Vue Penarth in a Munro Cup game but did manage to pick up one point, drawing 15-15 on Alan Wallace's rink. Alan was supported by Gerry Lloyd, Bryan Hole and John Trott.

Finally, the men's team played in a knockout competition on Sunday for the Alun Martin Cup; the match played on two rinks was at home to Barry Central.

Cowbridge overwhelmed the Barry team to go into the next round. As I finish this report, I have just heard that the prize for winning is that Cowbridge will meet Llanwit at home in the next round! **MB**

The A team slip to defeat

LAST Thursday Llantwit Major bowls A team travelled to Nantymoel to play Wyndham in the Rockwool Triples league.

Mike Harmon's rink of Ian Williamson and John Ball took an early lead being 4-0 after the fourth end. Wyndham took most of the remaining 14 ends and the final score was 9-17.

John Nixon's rink of Glyn Fox and John O'Brien had no luck and went down 6-20. Eric Sparkes' rink of Richard Bayliss and Cen Williams had a close game but lost 11-14.

Kyle Garrison's rink of Ken Williams and Paul Brown enjoyed the only success of the evening winning 21-14, the overall match score 47-65.

Last Saturday saw us visiting Caerphilly Social, and the early part of the game was played in the summer rain and we were treated to a parachute display as part of Armed Forces Day being held that day.

Graham Merchant's rink of John Moison, debutee Danny Morgan and Dave Post were ahead 16-9 after 11 ends but Caerphilly came back strongly over the remaining 10 to win by 10 shots, 18-28.

Mike Harmon's rink of Ian Williamson, Dave Thomas and John Ball also lost by 10 shots, going down 10-20. Amazingly Kyle Garrison's rink of Paul Brown, Ambrose Horgan and Pat Twomey also lost by 10 shots, 13-23.

John Nixon's rink of Cen Williams, Ken Williams and John O'Brien played a close game, finishing strongly to win 21-16, the overall match score 62-87.

We are still struggling to field teams so please make every effort to put your names down to play. **PB**

Griffett stars for Athletic in win

ON Saturday Barry Athletic first XI entertained Malpas in a top of the table class at the Athletic Ground.

They lost the toss and were asked to bat on a cloudy, overcast and sometimes drizzly afternoon with the game not stating until 1.40pm and reduced to 40 overs per side.

Barry posted 118 in their innings with Nathan Baker (41), Jake Griffett (16), Gavin White (12) and Rhett Jones (10) being the only ones to reach double figures, with Lewis Morgan taking 5 for 19 for Malpas.

In reply Malpas got off to a flyer and had 35 on the board in no time, before Peter Hellyar took two wickets in three overs and the collapse was about to start.

It was the introduction of Jake Griffett in the 17th over that proved the turning point with his slow left arm spin, as he posted figures of 7.4 overs, one maiden, 23 runs and five wickets as Barry ran out winners by 10 runs, Baker taking 2 for 21 and Hellyar 2 for 32.

Barry Athletic second XI travelled to Malpas on Saturday and were bowled out for 77 with Lee Morgan scoring 28 not out, Malpas scoring 81 for 0 and running our winners by 10 wickets.

This weekend, Barry Athletic first XI entertain Cardiff Gymkhana at the Athletic Ground, Barry Island, with the second XI travelling to Cardiff to face the same opponents. **MR**

News from Barry Chess Club

BOTH the East Glamorgan Chess Association and Welsh Chess Union AGMs have been scheduled for June.

The Barry Chess Club will hold its AGM on Monday, July 11.

We intend to run two separate tournaments. The first will commence on Monday, July 25 and will be a Blitz event. This will be an 'all play all' event.

The timings allowed on each clock will be determined by the number of entrants. If the entry level is high enough, then this event could run over two consecutive Mondays.

A subsequent event will commence on Monday, August 8.

The exact structure of this event will be determined by the options available on our chess clocks.

For both these events, it is intended to send out an entry form and to be included in the draw, this form must be completed online.

For the members who do not have access to a computer, IO will contact them separately by phone.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Sports start training

TRAINING is about to start for the 2016/17 term for Sully Sports RFC.

Coaches Chris and Barry will start (gentle) pre-season training on Tuesday, July 5, commencing at 6.30pm at the Sully Grounds.

Our next reunion, which will be a BBQ at the Sully Club, on Friday, September 9, starting at 7.30pm. Any Sully Sports RFC players/members will be most welcome.

MJS

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Barry bowlers continue their unbeaten run

Barry Romilly Bowls Club first team continued their unbeaten start to the season with another success at home to Gilfach Bargoed in Division One of the CML.

The A team had a very good win away to Rumney (Cardiff) to keep up their promising start to the season, while Romilly's midweek Munro Cup side remain unbeaten after a resounding win over Sully.

ROMILLY V GILFACH

Barry Romilly Club side welcomed Gilfach Bargoed to Romilly Park on Saturday.

Gilfach, who have been one of the top teams for many years, have had a poor start to the season but they are not a side to take for granted as they have a number of top class players.

The game began with the 'Rom' taking full advantage of home knowledge of the green, and they raced into a 17 shot lead by the fifth end, leading 32-15.

With the green playing 'heavy' as normal, the opponents were finding their weight difficult which allowed Romilly players to take full advantage going further ahead by the 10th end, 59-28.

Two Romilly rinks in particular, namely those skipped by Mike Doyle and Brian Foscolo, were giving their opponents a torrid time, leading by 13 and 18 shots respectively.

As the game progressed Romilly remained in charge but Gilfach, after being 31 shots down, were clawing their way back reducing the deficit by the 15th end to 17 shots.

Over the last six ends the rinks of Doyle and Foscolo's continued their dominance, winning by 10 and 20 shots respectively, while the rinks of Jeff Wright and Fred Phillips, who were having close games against strong opponents, finally succumbed by four and three shots respectively.

The game ended in a 23 shot victory for the 'Rom', gaining 10 points to Gilfach's two.

FP

Dinas Powys make an appeal for sponsors to step forward

ABOVE: Dinas Powys ladies.

THE ladies recently took part in a local tournament in Barry.

Managing to field two seven-a-side teams, the girls were brilliant. The team has grown in strength and depth in the past three months following on from a successful finish to the season.

The team spirit and bond between the girls is a credit to them.

Pre-season starts end of July and training throughout the winter is twice a week on Monday and Thursday evenings, new and old players welcome.

As we go into next season, the team is looking for sponsors for the squad, and individual players. To contact the team, email: lcf123@hotmail.co.uk.

LS

Sam gets a Wales basketball call-up

A former University of Worcester student will join the Wales national squad for a major tournament this month.

Sam Roberts, of the Vale, who has just finished his degree, is among three former University students selected for the Wales Senior Men's Basketball team.

They will compete at the FIBA (International Basketball Federation) European Championship for Small Countries from Tuesday, June 28.

Sam plays in the guard position, and has just finished a three year course in sports studies and this will be his first game in the men's side. The 20-year-old has played basketball since he was 14 and first played at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

He developed his skills through a scheme at Cardiff Metropolitan University and went on to play for the Vale Vipers under-18s squad, a national league side in Cardiff.

Alongside his studies, he played in the university's second team in the British Universities and College Sport (BUCS) league and the Worcester Wolves national league division two side.

He has played in the under-16 and under-18 Welsh teams and is one of only two that has progressed from the original under 16 squad.

"I thought I had a good chance in the way I was playing," said Sam. "I was kind of shocked that I was in but really happy."

ES

Barry RFC lottery draw

LAST week's numbers were 2, 12, 16 and 22, which produced no winners – this week's jackpot will be £2,200.

AJ

Belle Vue Penarth in weekend wins

BELLE VUE had two good wins last weekend.

On Saturday, we beat Ynysywl B.C. in the Cardiff League and on Sunday we defeated Cadoxton B.C. in the Alun Martin's Trophy.

Saturday's game was won 80 shots to 65.

Rink one lost in a very close game. It went to the last end but the opposition took it 24 -21. It was the last shot of the rink that did it.

Lead was Frank Keen, No2 Graham Duggan, No3 was Paul Paterson and skip was Len Fowler.

Rink two won by 19 - 12. Again with only three players, it was another good win for them.

Lead was Dave Smith, No3 was Dave Miller and skip was captain Malcolm Thomas.

Rink three also lost in another close game 19 - 17. That also went to the last end.

Lead was Gerry Field, No2 was Paul Booth, No3 was Barrie Bagwell and skip was Dave Purser.

Rink four had a very good win 23 - 10. Lead was Rowland Fletcher, No2 was Richard Brant, No3 was Alan Thomas and the skip was Trevor Ford.

A big thank you to Malcolm Thomas for the food and to his back room boys for helping out.

On Sunday, we had a two rink match in the Alun Martin's Trophy. Both rinks won against Cadoxton.

Rink one won 20 -16. Lead was Rowland Fletcher, No2 was Graham Duggan, No3 was Frank Keen and skip was Len Fowler.

Rink two won 16 -15 in a close encounter.

Lead was Gerry Field, No2 Paul Booth, No3 Dave Miller and skip was captain Malcolm Thomas

The win means Belle Vue will meet Penarth B.C. in the next round. It should be a good local derby!

FK

Captain's ball for tennis club

ON Saturday evening, June 25, Dinas Powys Lawn Tennis club held its annual captain's ball at the Dinas Powys Golf Club.

In previous years the golf club has had a marquee. Last winter they totally refurbished the clubhouse and they now have a new magnificient function room, so this year members and guests enjoyed this fabulously refurbished function room for an evening of superb food prepared by their chef, wonderful entertainment and, of course, wonderful company.

The dancing continued late into the night to live music provided by 'Charlie's Marvels'. The band proved very popular last year and were invited back for this year's event.

The club captains, Shirley Howman and Mark Jones, would like to thank all those club members and local businesses who so generously donated raffle prizes: Alex Easton, Bank of Flowers, The Business Hair Salon, La Dolce Vita, Jane Blasizza, Rob Walbyoff (club coach), 'The Red Wine Club', Paul Arcos, Nan Thomas and Mark Griffith, family butcher.

Thanks also go to Rhys Meddins and Sophie Thomas (junior captains) and Isaac Follon and Amelia Davidson for selling raffle tickets on the night, also to Guy Chapman who gave so much of his time organising the floral table decorations and Nigel Williams, who helped decorate the room on Saturday afternoon.

As ever, the tennis club members made this a very enjoyable and memorable evening so thank you all!

NW

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for June 27:

1st Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 59.38%, 2nd Vida Halford & Glyn Williams 57.64%, 3rd= Graham Norris & Barrie Waite and Glenda Roberts & Liam Sheridan, both with 57.29%.

LE

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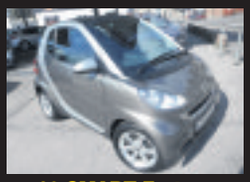

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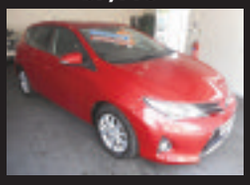

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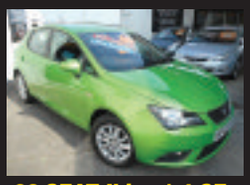

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In met green with white roof, 38,000 miles,1 owner, a/c etc
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63 TOYOTA Yaris Trend 1324cc 5-Dr In white, 1 owner, 22,000 miles, blueooth "A real Bobby Dazzler" **£7,995**

62 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr In pulse Copper metalic, 6,000 miles, £30 road tax....**£7,995**

62 VW Polo 1.2 Match 5-Dr. In black, 26,000 miles with alloys, bluetooth etc. **£7,995**

61 FORD Focus 1.6 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr. In silver, 45,000 miles, low running costs. **£7,995**

58 MERCEDES CLC 200 CDi Diesel Coupe Automatic In Silver, heated leather seats etc with only 53,000 miles **£7,995**

60 MERCEDES B160 Blue Efficiency Sport MPV AMG. Alloys, Bluetooth, Half Leather Trim. **£7,495**

13 KIA Venga '2' Automatic 1.6 5-Dr In black, 37,000 miles, 1 owner, with parking sensors etc **£6,995**

63 SUZUKI Swift SZ3 DDis 5-Dr Diesel Hatchback In silver, alloys, bluetooth etc, 23,000 miles**£6,995**

62 FORD Fiesta Zetec 998cc 3-Dr In silver, free road tax, real value at **£6,995**

11 VW Polo 1.2 TDCi 5-Dr SE In red, low miles and fantastic economy....**£6,995**

59 MINI Cooper 1.6 Convertible In pure silver, 68,000 miles with over £2,500 of extras....**£6,995**

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13 RENAULT Clio Dynamique Media Nav 1.2 5-Dr In silver, alloys, air con etc, very attractive ..**£6,495**

13 KIA Picanto '2' 1.0 5-Dr In white, 12,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax, bluetooth etc....**£6,495**

61 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4SE Automatic In met blue, 37,000 miles **£6,495**

11 RENAULT Megane G.T Line 1.4 TomTom TCE 5-Dr In met blue, Sat Nav, A/C etc **£6,495**

59 VW Golf Plus 1.4 TSi SE In silver, 50,000 miles, host of extras ....REDUCED TO **£6,495**

58 MINI Cooper In met green/white roof, 38,000 miles, 1 owner, A/C etc....**£6,495**

14 DACIA Sandero Stepway Ambiance In black, 29,000 miles **£5,995**

60 SEAT Leon 1.2 TSi 'S' 5-Dr In black, 43,000 miles. Good looking car **£5,995**

10 VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 SE Turbo 5-Dr In silver, 55,000 miles, nice example REDUCED TO **£5,995**

13 VOLKSWAGON UP 1.0 Black Edition 51,000 miles, high spec, low running costs **£5,995**

61 SKODA Fabia 1.2 TDi Greenlink 5-Dr In red, 50,000 miles, 1 owner, "Free road tax"....**£5,995**

60 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVTi TR 5-Dr In blue streak metallic, 12,100 miles from new....**£5,995**

57 SUZUKI Jimny 1.3 In met-grey, 26,000 miles, 1 owner, 4-wheel drive....**£5,995**

62 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-Dr In verde lime, 22,000 miles, 1 owner ..REDUCED BY £1000 TO **£5,995**

60 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr. In met blue, 42,000 miles, A/C, alloys etc. **£5,995**

64 SUZUKI Alto S23 5-Dr In white, 10,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax **£5,495**

13 CITROEN C1 Connexion 3-Dr 1.0 In met gun metal, only 10,000 miles, ultra modern car, free road tax **£5,495**

11 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVTi T-Spirit 5-Dr In met-grey, 63,000 miles, high spec **£5,495**

10 RENAULT Twingo 1.6 Gordini Sports In malte blue, 33,000 miles with leather etc....**£5,495**

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59 FORD FIESTA 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr In met-blue, 54,000 miles with a/c, alloys, etc ....REDUCED TO **£4,995**

59 HONDA Jazz 1.4 V-Tec Ex In electric blue, with panoramic roof .... REDUCED TO **£4,995**

11 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr In black, 66,000 miles, with alloys, a/c etc **£4,995**

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59 SKODA Fabia 1.2 HTP 5-Dr In red, very nice example with only 19,000 miles **£3,995**

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09 PEUGEOT 308 XL 1.6 Diesel 5-Dr In met-grey, 76,000 miles, low running costs **£3,995**

58 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140) Titanium-X In silver with black leather, high miles hence....**£3,995**

58 SKODA Fabia 2 HTP 1.2 5-Dr. Met Grey, 50,000 miles, nice example.... **£3,795**

11 SUZUKI Alto SZ3 1.0 5-Dr In red, 47,000 miles, low running costs, plus £20 road tax **£3,695**

07 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 Zinc 5-Dr Auto In met-silver, 65,000 miles **£3,695**

09 FORD Ka 1.2 Style (New Shape) In silver, 51,000 miles, £30 road tax ....REDUCED TO **£3,495**

59 HYUNDAI i10 Edition 1.1 5-Dr In grey, alloys, C/D, A/C, E/W, £30 road tax....**£3,495**

57 RENAULT Clio 2.0 Dynamique S In black, 63,000 miles with pan-roof, keyless-go etc **£3,295**

58 FIAT Grand Punto 1.4 Dynamic 3-Dr In met-blue, 63,000 miles, low running costs **£2,995**

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BLISTERING ALL BLACKS WHITEWASH WEARY WALES – AND WIDEN THE GAP

by DON JOHN

SIX years ago, Wales began their ill-fated summer tour of New Zealand with a comprehensive 42-9 defeat at the Forsyth Barr stadium, in Dunedin, where on Saturday, they suffered an even more emphatic 46-6 mauling in the third and final test before heading wearily homewards.

It was a dispiriting end to a 2016 summer tour that had begun in high hopes.

With the world champions in the process of rebuilding their team, the 33rd clash between the two countries since 1905 was seen as a real opportunity for Wales, who had triumphed only three times – the last occasion being all of 63 years ago in Cardiff.

This was swiftly disabused in the first test reality check at Auckland (39-21); underlined in the second test at Wellington (36-22); and finally extinguished in Dunedin's one-sided contest.

Add to this, the midweek 40-7 loss to the Chiefs at Hamilton – and the final tour tally made grim reading for the newly re-appointed Welsh coaches to digest on the long flight home.

True, the entire squad could not be faulted for showing characteristic bravery, tenacity, and wholehearted endeavour in adversity, but there is no escaping the cold tour statistics:

Played 4, lost 4:
Points for, 56. Points against, 161.

Not that it was all gloom and doom, for there were hugely encouraging passages in all three tests when the Welsh players showed glimpses of just what they are capable of when given a freer rein to express themselves (exemplified by the individual brilliance of fullback/wing Liam Williams, who enhanced his growing reputation on tour).

Nevertheless, the relentless display of power, pace and clinical execution by a much-changed All Blacks squad, was yet another telling illustration of their unrivalled strength in depth. It ultimately proved too much for brave but totally-drained Welsh players, at the end of a long, hard season, who had given their all.

Once again, the gap in class had proved too wide. As skipper Sam Warburton stated afterwards: "*We were definitely second best".*

It must have been a sobering admission after their second test heroics, when a resilient Wales had tested the world champs to the end, scoring two late tries and looking the stronger as the hooter sounded; prompting both Warburton and head coach Warren Gatland to insist: "*At this level, it's all about small margins… We don't think we are too far away…*"

On the evidence of the Dunedin mismatch alone, that may require a rethink, if the Welsh camp is truly to "learn lessons" from an arduous end of season tour that some had argued was ill-timed.

Perhaps an obvious lesson, among others, is not to persistently squander hard-won possession with wayward kicking into deep space and inviting the inevitable rapid response from the world's most lethal counter-attacking side – a flurry of tries on the scoreboard. The embattled tourists were far more effective with ball in hand, as Liam Williams, for one, demonstrated, even though they were frustrated by errors and poor execution as they strove to adapt to a more expansive style of play than the more familiar offensive-defence.

Just as in the second test, Wales had begun brightly – forcing two penalties landed by outside half Dan Biggar in the first quarter – which, unfortunately, turned out to be the sum total of Welsh scoring that day.

These sandwiched a successful kick by his mercurial opposite number Beauden Barrett (who would go on to amass 26 points with two tries, five conversions of his team's six tries, and two penalties).

Overall, though, it proved a game too far for a brave Welsh team who in the end were found wanting – as it was in fact New Zealand who had "learnt lessons" about their opponents' revised style of play and ruthlessly put them to the sword, to record their 29th successive victory over Wales stretching back to Coronation year 1953.

The overall points record between the two now reads:

New Zealand 1,037pts, Wales 356 pts.

Before the tour, Gatland said it would provide the perfect opportunity to "*see where we are*".

After this latest 'Blackwash' – in stark contrast to England's historic three-test whitewash of Australia – the camp know how much ground to make up if they are to bridge the gap, before Wales again lock horns with the southern hemisphere in the autumn.

Barry water activity centre launches a 'patrons scheme'

Images by PD Murphy Photography.

BARRY Community Water Activity Centre (BCWAC) launched its 'patrons scheme' at its inaugural fundraising dinner on June 18.

Guests were welcomed by BCWAC chair Chris Basten, who described the work so far to create a watersports centre on the Mole in Barry Waterfront.

Mr Basten reported on the success to date, which has resulted in thousands of youngsters getting afloat and more user groups joining than anticipated in such a short time.

Mr Basten asked guests for their support in fundraising towards creating a permanent building within the next five years that will cater for even larger numbers of users, and to reunite Barry with its heritage for future generations.

During the meal, the architect's plan of the new building was projected onto the sails of a Mirror dinghy that had been installed in the hall for the evening, and guests viewed a superb aerial video, filmed from a drone.

Local Barry man John Haskell of Atlantic Dash entertained guests with an after-dinner presentation of how he and friend Jamie rowed the Atlantic in 45 days. Mr Haskell then outlined his next intrepid adventure, which is to kayak down the Amazon.

Barry Round Table chairman Dave Beadle then presented a cheque for £120 to chairman Mr Basten, to become a patron of BCWAC.

For further information, visit www.barrycwac.org.uk

On and Off The Turf

LLANCARFAN'S Isabel Williams, aged 18, riding the top weighted In On The Act, took third place in the Lady Amateur Riders Handicap Hurdle at Newton Abbot last Wednesday.

First past the post by one-and-a-half lengths was Walter White the 5-1 favourite, ridden by Natalie Parker, with Ice Conig a further one-and-a-half lengths away in second place.

Isabel, who won a point-to-point on her father's Tenant Farmer at the Gelligaer Farmers Point-To-Point last month, has also been placed in a couple of races on the flat and the odds are that she should soon be booting home a winner under Rules.

At Worcester 24 hours later, her father Evan Williams saddled Mr Kit Cat winner of the Novices' Hurdle.

Ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, six-year-old Mr Kit Kat, a winner of his previous race, won by one-and-a-half-lengths from Alcock And Brown and was returned the 7-4 favourite.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - 1984

Champion point-to-point rider John Llewellyn, of Cowbridge, only had one ride at the Pembrokeshire Hunt Steeplechases on Saturday – and it resulted in a dead heat.

He was riding Prudence Adams' Kate's Sister in the maiden race to what looked a certain win a few yards from the post.

But the champion was caught on the line by the fast finishing Kilpeck, partnered by Carl Llewellyn, who is no relation.

The members' race was won by Chica's Beau, a 33-1 chance, ridden by Bridgend butcher Jonathan Tudor.

Carl went on to win two Grand Nationals, the first on Party Politics in 1992 and the second on Earth Summit in 1998.

BRIAN LEE

HIGH AND LOW FOR LLANTWIT LADIES

LLANTWIT MAJOR ladies had a high and a low this week.

We travelled to Prince of Wales Porthcawl for what we knew would be a tough game – they were 10 points above us in the Cowbridge Shield competition.

What a superb game all our ladies had. P Brown, N Baelz, J Molloy and D Hurley were slow starting but a 6 and a 4 on the 10th and 11th ends put them in a comfortable lead. Porthcawl closed the gap but our ladies won 19-16.

K Johnes, J Fox, M Lewis and M Morgan were 8 down on the 6th end but won the next 17 ends and although Porthcawl scored 3 on the last end Llantwit ladies won 19-12.

Liz Crouch, Mo Andrews, C. Willmot and H Nixon had a comfortable win, 22-9.

Thursday was a visit to Cowbridge and although losing on all rinks Llantwit ladies played well.

Liz Crouch, M Horgan, H Nixon and Willmot, although only three down on the last end and holding 4, Shirley, the Cowbridge skip, bowled a superb last wood, taking the jack back to 3 of hers for a score of 11-17.

K Johnes, J Fox, M Morgan and M Lewis never mastered the speed of the green and finished with a score of 6-24.

E Gray, P Brown, D Hurley and J Molloy kept the pressure on Cowbridge to the last end. One down on the last end they unfortunately dropped a 5 leaving them with a score of 14-20. Never mind ladies, we will improve for our next visit.

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FLYING THE FLAG FOR WALES!

Tense encounter in Paris... but Wales prosper to set up Belgium quarter-final clash!

"Together, Stronger!"

LEFT: A job well done! Wales celebrate reaching the last eight of Euro 2016, thanks to a 1-0 win over Northern Ireland.

RIGHT: Gareth Bale was closely monitored by a staunch Northern Irish defence.

All pictures by ***HUW EVANS AGENCY.***

by GARETH JAMIESON

IT'S never normally like this. At this stage of a competition, whether it's European Championships or World Cups, Welsh football fans, players and management alike are taking a slight interest in watching football's elite battling out for success, all the while thinking what could have been for our national team.

Of course, this summer hasn't been like any other summer – for the first time in 58 years, we've been able to watch Wales in a major tournament, cheer them from the stands of France, fan zones both home and abroad, pubs, living rooms, wherever there's a television, collecting the stickers, hanging up the wall charts and fixture guides, knowing we're finally a part of it.

It started with just being happy to be there, excited at having finally been allowed to the party after so many years of missing out. Then we went and beat Slovakia and suddenly we started to dream, though at the back of our minds still happy just to be involved; England then went and spoiled the party, but still we remained outwardly defiant, inwardly edgy and cautious, with a result needed against Russia.

That 3-0 win felt like the cork had finally popped, that Wales, for so long the nation on the outside looking in, were now a key member of the international football scene, and that now we'd reached the knockout stages anything was possible.

If last Monday night had been the party properly starting, then Saturday's last-16 clash with Northern Ireland had the feeling of the part of the night where it's time for a second wind, or time to go home.

It was a nervy, edgy encounter between two teams who, having reached this stage of Euro 2016, were now painfully aware that there are no second chances, no opportunities to right wrongs – knockout football, if we didn't already know, can be a tremendously tense experience.

It was also something of a role-reversal for Wales – no longer the plucky underdogs, enjoying their summer of football, now we were the favourites, the team the majority were expecting to win against a Northern Irish outfit whose strong team ethic and hard work mirrored the strengths of Chris Coleman's team.

What sets the two teams apart is a world-class player in Gareth Bale, whose three goals at the tournament thus far have put him in the running for the golden boot (and also broken Ivor Allchurch's record as the highest Welsh goalscorer at an international tournament).

As the game went on, with Northern Ireland not only looking the better of the teams but also the most likely to get a goal (despite Aaron Ramsey having an effort disallowed for offside), you felt that Bale had something in his locker, some little burst of magic that could prove to be the difference between the two sides – and so it proved.

In a rare moment of finding himself unmarked deep in Northern Irish territory, Bale received a pass from Ramsey on the left flank. Taking a touch, he whipped the ball across the box – only for Gareth McAuley, the Northern Ireland defender, to divert the ball into the back of the net to give Wales the lead.

There was still 15 minutes left for them to get themselves back in the game, but as the game became more and more frantic, cool Welsh heads prevailed and progress to the quarter-finals was assured.

It was a far from vintage performance from Wales, the enormity of the occasion and the well-organised opposition not giving them the time and space to play their usual game, but a result is a result and at this stage of the competition it's about winning games rather than performing well and coming up empty-handed.

Yet again, Coleman's substitutions proved to have the desired effect. With Hal Robson Kanu having created such an impact in the Slovakia opener, grabbing the winner in that game, he and Jonny Williams' arrival marked an upturn in Welsh fortunes, the former using his physicality against a tiring defence, while the latter's direct running gave a new dimension to Wales, and arguably more space for Bale to operate in.

Attention now turns to Lille on Friday, and a date with a Belgium team who are slowly realising their potential. A tricky encounter lies ahead, but one that Wales will feel quietly confident about.

Having played them four times in the last four years, there is a sense of familiarity, and the Belgians (who will go into this match as favourites) will no doubt be aware that in those four games they have only managed one win, that 2-0 victory coming against a 10-man Welsh team in September 2012.

Since then, there have been draws in Belgium (1-1 and 0-0) and, of course, that famous victory in Cardiff last June when Gareth Bale grabbed the winner that made a country believe in the possibility of qualification for this tournament.

So having believed that anything is possible so far, why not keep on believing this Friday? Providing Ashley Williams' shoulder injury isn't a serious one, it should be a full-strength Welsh side who will be looking to make yet more history and reach the semi-finals of a major tournament for this first time in history.

A nation has been dreaming since we qualified for this tournament last October – why wake up now?

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